

FOOD AND
NUTRITION
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

Annual Report

Project Year 3

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Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project

Academy for Educational Development 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, DC 20009-5721
Tel: 202-884-8000 Fax: 202-884-8432 E-mail: fanta@aed.org Website: www.fantaproject.org

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACC/SCN	Administrative Committee on Coordination/Subcommittee on Nutrition
ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AED	Academy for Educational Development
ANFPM	Sixth Annual West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting
BASICS	Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival Project
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BHR	USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Response (renamed to Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance)
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CORE	Child Survival Collaboration and Resources Group
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CS	Cooperating Sponsor (includes Private Voluntary Organizations)
CSR4	Cooperating Sponsor Resource Request and Results Report
CSTS	Child Survival Technical Support Project
CWE	Credit With Education
DAP	Title II Development Activity Proposal
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
EOC	Ethiopian Orthodox Church
EFS	USAID/Port-au-Prince's Enhancing Food Security Project (Numbers I, II, and III)
FAM	Food Aid Management
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project
FFE	Food for Education
FFH	Freedom from Hunger
FFP	BHR Office of Food for Peace
FFP/DP	Office of Food for Peace, Development Program Division
FFP/EP	Office of Food for Peace, Emergency Program Division (formerly FFP/ER)
FHI	Food for the Hungry International
GFFEI	Global Food for Education Initiative
GHAI	Greater Horn of Africa Initiative
G/PHN	USAID Bureau for Global Programs, Center for Population, Health, and Nutrition
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IR	Intermediate Result
ISA	Institutional Support Agreement
KPC	Knowledge, Practice and Coverage Survey
LIFE	Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Programs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OICI	Opportunities Industrialization Centers International

PROFILES	A process for nutrition policy analysis and advocacy
PVC	BHR Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization (also used for Cooperating Sponsor)
R4	Results Report and Resource Request
REDSO/ESA	USAID Regional Economic Development Services Office/East and Southern Africa
REST	Relief Society of Tigre
RNIS	Refugee Nutrition Information System
SARA	Support for Analysis and Research in Africa
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SHARE	Self-Help and Resource Exchange
SO	Strategic Objective (e.g., SO7)
SOW	Scope of Work
USAID	United States Agency for International Development (also called the Agency)
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TNS	TechnoServe
UN	United Nations
WFP	World Food Program
WN	Women's Nutrition
WVI	World Vision International
WHO	World Health Organization

I. PROJECT YEAR THREE HIGHLIGHTS

FANTA provides multi-sectoral technical assistance in the areas of food security and nutrition to USAID, the PVO community, and host country governments. FANTA's strategy is based on promoting a multi-disciplinary approach; establishing institutional linkages; and developing sound technical tools to assess problems, design and implement solutions, and report on its impact. This report discusses activities during the third year of the project (October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001).

The complex and multi-sectoral nature of food security and nutrition requires a broad range of partners with expertise in the various disciplines associated with food security and nutrition. FANTA works collaboratively with the Food Aid Management (FAM) consortium of Title II PVOs, Tufts and Cornell Universities, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Health Organization (WHO) and Freedom from Hunger (FFH). FANTA engages this broad range of partners in a consultative process with USAID and host country governments to develop technical solutions to food security and nutrition problems. The broad and diverse technical expertise of FANTA and its partners ensures that the right question is being asked before seeking a solution.

The FANTA Project draws support from a number of USAID Bureaus and Missions. The diversity of funding sources requires institutional linkages to ensure that funds are leveraged and there is complementarity. An example of FANTA's role in promoting institutional linkages is through the Title II program. The Title II development portfolio has over 86 projects in 27 countries implemented by 15 Cooperating Sponsors (CSs). The Office of Food for Peace's (FFP) non-emergency portfolio disburses \$400 million annually of food commodities, used in-kind and monetized, for a range of food security and nutrition-related activities. FANTA continues to provide technical assistance to Title II PVOs, most of which have programs also funded by USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation (BHR/PVC) for child survival interventions. FANTA is able to promote new institutional linkages and provide technical solutions based on childhood food and nutritional needs.

While FANTA is essentially demand-driven, the nature of food security and nutrition requires a proactive approach to anticipating the evolving needs of our development and emergency partners. Information is a key factor in developing effective tools to assess, design, and implement technical solutions. FANTA assists PVOs in developing and using appropriate information systems, particularly in the area of monitoring and evaluation. Mandated by Congress, result reporting is the backbone of program design and implementation. FANTA provides technical assistance to PVOs in choosing indicators, developing and using measurement tools, and reporting in order to strengthen project design and implementation.

In order to illustrate how FANTA works, the next section presents three country case studies: Ethiopia, Honduras and Haiti. This is followed by case studies on six thematic areas: women's nutrition; HIV/AIDS; measuring the impact of food for education; emergency food and nutrition; nutrition and food security policies and programs; and measuring food security. These case studies highlight FANTA's approach, mode of operation and results.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. USAID/Addis Ababa's 2002-2006 goal is to reduce Ethiopia's chronic food insecurity. Ethiopia's high and persistent rates of child malnutrition and stunting are of great concern to USAID. In addition to Development Assistance resources, the Mission has committed \$36 million in Title II development food and monetization resources to improving Ethiopia's chronic food insecurity and child malnutrition. Integral to the Mission's portfolio are the eight PVOs implementing the development activities of its Title II program. Interventions include natural resource management, microfinance, water and sanitation, maternal and child health and an important link to conflict response with humanitarian assistance. The broad range of activities is crucial to a country periodically exposed to natural disasters and vulnerable to economic and other shocks.

FANTA's challenge in supporting the Mission and its Title II partners in Ethiopia is to identify the most effective ways to improve the nutrition and food security of women and children within the mandate and resources of USAID/Addis Ababa. It is important to unify the Mission's approach to food insecurity, ensure the most effective use of its cash and food resources, and leverage resources from other sources (including the communities). The Government of Ethiopia and civil society institutions are also key partners in this process.

FANTA believes that it is crucial for all stakeholders to have common understanding of food security and a consensus as to what can be done to remedy food insecurity. FANTA adapted the PROFILES analysis and presentation tool to motivate a common understanding of the nutrition problem and its consequences. This tool was used initially with the Mission and its partners and then presented to the Government of Ethiopia and donors. The findings on the consequences of not taking action on nutrition broadened the participants' awareness of the opportunities available with even limited resources. The Government, having established a national nutrition office, used the findings of the analysis to improve its own regional government planning.

The Mission continues to manage its large portfolio with FANTA technical assistance in improving program design, implementation and reporting. New programming areas include Vitamin A, women's nutrition, and HIV/AIDS. The topics and approaches are important areas given the recurrent emergency situation in the region.

The work in Ethiopia illustrates another critical element in FANTA's mode of operation. FANTA's work was funded by two Bureaus in Washington (Global and Humanitarian Response) and USAID/Addis Ababa. The multi-track funding with in-kind contributions from the partners signal both the seriousness of the effort and a shared ownership in the results. The Mission recently reported to USAID/Washington that FANTA performed: *"...excellent work...helping us integrate nutrition interventions throughout the program."*

Our approach in Ethiopia is not unique. It is reflected in our work in Madagascar, Haiti Honduras and other priority countries. By first understanding the policy and operational environment, FANTA applies the appropriate technical tools to solve problems in problem design, implementation and reporting. The results are better practices in informing policy and applying standards to complex and dynamic situations.

Honduras

FANTA has been working with the Mission in Honduras since the beginning of the project.. FANTA has developed a close and collaborative working relationship with the CARE/Honduras, the Mission's only Title II PVO partner in Honduras. In 2001, CARE's Title II development funds were approximately \$5.6 million and covered agriculture, infrastructure, health, nutrition, and capacity building for local government. The focus of FANTA's technical assistance is testing and refining technical approaches for improved program design and monitoring and evaluation

As one of the better Title II development programs, CARE's activities have provided FANTA with a field laboratory to refine concepts for program evaluation and test the feasibility of evaluation designs. By engaging in a rigorous study of evaluation approaches and indicators, using control groups and data on household caloric adequacy, FANTA was able to advise USAID and its partners on activities that maximize impact with minimum resources.

FANTA's work, in partnership with the Mission and CARE, led to a policy shift in the Government of Honduras' food assisted maternal and child health programs. Based on FANTA's recommendations and the close relationship CARE maintains with the Ministry of Health, the Government now targets all children under two instead of only malnourished children under five.

Haiti

Haiti represents a worst case scenario of recurrent environmental degradation, economic collapse and social instability. The people of Haiti are the poorest in this hemisphere. The absence of any kind of government social safety net has left the vast majority of Haitians in a perpetual state of destitution and dependence on foreign aid. In 2001, USAID/Port au Prince distributed or monetized almost \$28 million of Title II food complementing an already sizable development assistance program. The Mission, in cooperation with five PVOs, works largely in education and maternal and child health, but also carries out activities in water and sanitation, microcredit, infrastructure and humanitarian assistance. FANTA has provided assistance in reviewing proposals, developing criteria for program evaluations, and translating evaluation results into designing more effective and efficient program interventions.

Support for the Mission's overall work in Haiti provides FANTA with the opportunity to deliver assistance beyond discreet technical support. FANTA's work operationalizes USAID policy and guidelines into program design, implementation and evaluation. The entry point is often the choice of indicators, interpretation of results and reporting. This technical assistance results in not only better technically-executed programs but provides important information to USAID/Washington on lessons learned and better practices to inform the annual guidance on submitting Title II proposals.

Following the second cycle of integrated food security programming, the Mission requested FANTA's assistance in preparing for the new 2002-2006 cycle. As a result of FANTA's technical assistance to the Mission's overall food security program, there was a shift in program targeting in the maternal and child health programs. Working with IFPRI, FANTA will study the nutritional and program implications of targeting all children under two instead of only malnourished children under five for nutrition interventions. This work will begin in early 2002.

FANTA believes that this study will show demonstrable results in targeting under twos while maximizing limited resources.

Women's Nutrition: Advocacy and Action

While a number of USAID-partners have programs that address women's nutrition, there is no coordination to capture and disseminate promising practices to USAID and its development partners. FANTA recently brought together PVOs to discuss activities that are currently underway and the obstacles that hinder progress on improving women's nutrition. It is clear from these discussions that greater efforts are needed to develop advocacy tools for women's nutrition and to create guidelines for program implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Advocacy is an important step for reassuring donors and programmers of the importance of investments in nutrition.

Based on advocacy tools, such as PROFILES, FANTA began working on modeling the conditions and consequences related to poor health and nutrition in women. These models include the effect of anemia on productivity and mortality, of night-blindness on mortality, and the determinants of chronic disease risk, including the effects of fetal malnutrition. These models are now being further refined and will be available for use for advocacy with policy makers to influence national approaches to improving women's nutrition.

To improve the operational aspects of women's programming, FANTA invested in the effort to revise the Women's Nutrition section of MEASURE II Evaluation Project's *Compendium of Indicators for Evaluating Reproductive Health Programs*. This collaboration helped clarify the need for a standardized guide on women's nutrition indicators for program implementers. The guide will focus on problem assessment, monitoring and evaluation and will include the review and input of PVOs to ensure the feasibility of its recommendations for the intended audience.

The experience of the past three years reinforces the need to look forward while building on the project and partner strengths. The practical exercise of indicator selection and use forces the programmer and technician to examine the problem, its environment, and the skills and resources of the data collector and analyst. The development of the indicator guide will provide a valuable contribution to the on-going technical assistance provided by FANTA to strengthen women's nutrition programming in Title II and Child Survival programming.

HIV/AIDS: Food and Nutrition

In 2000, FANTA conducted an assessment of the potential role of donated food in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS. Building on the premise that the HIV status of an individual or family is unknown, FANTA developed a comprehensive nutrition care and support guide for program managers in 2001. The guide provides practical advice for care-givers in the nutritional and food needs of various AIDS-related symptoms. In addition, the field-tested guide suggests approaches to nutritional care for HIV infected adults and children. The guide recommends practices that minimize maternal to child transmission of the HIV. The guide concludes with a module designed to assist providers in constructing a food basket to meet energy and protein needs based on the best available information for HIV infected individuals.

The guide reflects a field that is rapidly changing. The recommendations are made to be adapted to local situations and the process for adaptation has begun in Eastern Africa where five countries participated in a USAID and UNICEF funded workshop. Through FANTA's work with PVOs, USAID and other donors, the recommendations contained in the guide have been distributed and adapted throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere. The format for the guide enables enhancements and additions to be made. UN and other agencies have expressed the enthusiasm for further development of the guidelines. Furthermore, the adaptation of the guide has led to requests for appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches.

Food for Education: Measurement Tools

Education is a key investment for promoting food security. Increasing education enhances productivity, improves life skills and raises incomes, all of which improves access to food. Targeting girls' schooling has further benefits: education delays marriage age, improves child spacing, reduces female pregnancies and has a positive impact on the health and nutrition of families, all of which improves the availability and utilization of food.

There are several types of food related education activities supported by the US Government. Recently, USDA implemented a Global Food for Education Initiative reflecting a great deal of interest in using US food resources to sponsor school lunch programs. The World Food Program (WFP) also supports large-scale food for education activities using US food aid.

The different activities funded by international donors such as USDA and WFP vary greatly in their objectives and operating modalities. The vast majority of programs carried out in developing countries focus on a narrower educational objective without addressing the nutritional needs of the beneficiaries. FANTA contributed to the technical debate by ensuring that expectations of nutritional and educational objectives were clearly defined based on the program design and available resources.

One prominent example is the Food for Education (FFE) programs using Title II development food aid which are promoted by the US government to help students learn, and to assist countries meet their educational objectives. Partnering with USAID and PVOs, FANTA has been actively involved in responding to the need for clear programmatic guidance in the FFE area.

An indicator guide was published, and a Best Practices Guide is under preparation to help the Agency and its partners deliver more effective programs in the field. The guidelines were developed in close collaboration with PVOs and USAID staff. This participatory approach has ensured their wide acceptance by PVOs and USAID alike, as well as by key actors outside the Agency, such as the World Food Program and USDA's Global Food for Education Initiative.

The technical indicator guide produced as a result of the consultation by FANTA and its partners is one of the five most popular documents downloaded from the World Bank's Development Gateway (www.developmentgateway.org).

Emergency Food and Nutrition

Emergency response is a long-standing and critical program area for USAID and its PVO partners. Why is food and nutrition programming in emergencies so important? Problems associated with food and nutrition programming in emergencies and the need for technical experience among US agencies has long been recognized as a challenge that inhibits effective response.

It is recognized that a failure to adequately fulfill the nutritional needs of affected populations during the emergency phase has immediate and significant long-term repercussions. In the short-term inadequate food and nutrition programming places huge numbers of vulnerable people at risk of succumbing to illness and death. In the long-term, undernourished and under-stimulated populations are not equipped to fully benefit even the best development programming, thus resulting in lost opportunities in the post-emergency phase. Many developing countries are affected by cycles of crisis and recovery so that intervention, prevention and mitigation are all critical strategies. There is an unmet need for innovative projects that link relief and development or what the USAID administrator refers to as developmental relief.

FANTA has been and continues to be active in strengthening reporting for more effective programming and to advance USAID's goals of monitoring the nutritional status of children. This includes strategic planning and revision and development of reporting mechanisms as well as links with the ACC/SCN in the production of the Refugee Nutrition Information System and the WHO Health Information Network for Advance Planning. At the same time it is recognized that nutritional data must be interpreted within a context so that resources can be appropriately targeted. FANTA continues to work to promote the use of the Crude Mortality Rate Indicator and promote a better understanding of the collection, reporting and use of nutritional data in emergencies.

Where requested, FANTA assists in the monitoring and evaluation of key programs and seeks to draw out key lessons learned that have wider application in emergency programs for USAID and its partners. For example, FANTA compiled a brief on an evaluation of the Kenya joint donor emergency program as well as a report on investigation into recurrent outbreaks of a serious niacin micronutrient deficiency disease (pellagra). These evaluations and investigations provide a better understanding of the use of food in emergency situations and resulting lessons are incorporated into strategic planning, appropriate programming response, reporting and guidelines.

FANTA is working to improve guidelines on emergency nutrition and promote and disseminate state of the art knowledge to a wider audience. In the last year FANTA provided significant technical input on the development of a USAID Emergency Ration Bar (ERB). The bar will be nutritionally state of the art and appropriately designed, packaged and pre-positioned for use primarily in the first stages of an emergency and in situations where large numbers of vulnerable people are cut-off in remote areas or on the move. FANTA will be involved in field-testing the product and will also develop field notes and guidelines on the uses of the bar. Despite an increase in demand for such products, currently there are no guidelines and little information available on the use of compact foods

In recognition of the importance of seeking out and promoting innovative projects and ideas that link relief and development, FANTA initiated discussions and hosted a presentation for USAID and its partners on community therapeutic care. The approach is based on a successful pilot intervention that provides care for malnourished children and adults in the community during emergencies thus building community capacity to manage and to better respond to repeated cycles of relief and recovery. FANTA will continue to explore this and other such promising practices in this regard and to evaluate and promote their wider application where appropriate.

Nutrition and Food Security Policy and Programs

Since the early 1980's, selective child survival or health and nutrition interventions, such as immunization and vitamin A supplementation, have become a major components of the policy portfolios of USAID and other development agencies, national governments and non-governmental organizations. With the view to improving the impact of these policies and programs on child survival, recent research by FANTA, led by Cornell University's David Pellitier, used DHS and WHO data to examine the impact of selective health and nutrition interventions and compare them with broad based approaches to reducing malnutrition and child mortality.

The results suggest that the US Government policy shift toward selective child survival interventions has been responsible for saving many lives. This impact, however, could be improved by intensifying efforts to ensure access to child survival interventions among the more malnourished populations. This includes entire countries and regions in some cases, notably Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the more marginal or malnourished provinces and communities within low-to- medium mortality countries.

The research also found that further gains in child survival could be achieved by broad-based efforts to reduce general malnutrition in addition to selective health and nutrition interventions especially in the more marginal populations. By simply reducing the prevalence of undernutrition by 5 percentage points by 2005 could reduce child mortality by about 30% and under-5 mortality by 13%. Significantly, as mortality rates drop in countries, reductions in general malnutrition become progressively *more* important to achieve further reductions in mortality.

Thus, while international development agencies continue to move towards promoting selective interventions, programs and policies geared towards reducing general malnutrition will accelerate child survival, particularly as countries reach lower mortality rates. The recommendation implied here -- to leave resources on the table for other aspects of human development, economic development and social equity -- marks a departure from the current agreement that selective interventions in health and nutrition are the best path toward reducing mortality in all malnourished regions of the world.

Measuring Food Security

The access to and consumption of adequate and appropriate food by households and individuals are important components of food security. FANTA is carrying out a set of activities aimed at developing user-friendly, cost-effective approaches to measure changes in dietary quantity and quality and in feeding behaviors at the household and individual level. USAID and PVO stakeholders have identified this work as a high priority. FANTA has on-going indicator testing and field validation activities with Cornell, Tufts and IFPRI.

FANTA subcontractor IFPRI completed the first draft report of an analysis of six out of the planned ten household data sets (collected in Bangladesh, Egypt, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, and The Philippines) to test the dietary diversity indicator as a measure of access (per capita expenditures) and a measure of consumption (caloric availability at the household level). Preliminary results show a consistently high correlation between dietary diversity and measures of household income, and between dietary diversity and the caloric contribution of non-staples in the diet. A correlation was also found between dietary diversity and overall household caloric adequacy, but the relationship is not consistent across all of the data sets.

A promising approach already used in the US to measure food insecurity is the U.S. Household Food Security Scale. FANTA is conducting field validation studies to adapt the scale to developing countries. This activity is designed to validate the USDA Household Food Security and Hunger assessment tool (Household Food Security Measurement Tool - HFSMT) for use in developing countries, and to test its usefulness as an impact indicator for access to food in food and nutrition program evaluations. The concepts of food security and hunger measured using this tool will be validated against measures of household income and dietary caloric adequacy to see if it can be used in impact evaluations of Title II food security programs.

Looking Ahead to Project Year Four

Looking ahead to Project Year Four, FANTA's Workplan reflects some of the recent changes and new directions at USAID. For example, USAID's increasing attention to the HIV/AIDS pandemic drives the development of new approaches and tools for mitigation, particularly in the areas of better nutritional care and support. The challenge in developing these new tools and approaches is to respond to the food and nutritional needs of HIV/AIDS-affected populations within the context of an emerging scientific basis for specific nutrition guidelines. FANTA is positioned to play an important role in developing and advocating the use of better mitigation approaches through its technical assistance. FANTA's monitoring and evaluation activities will provide critical data needed to measure the benefits of improved nutrition on the health and wellbeing of HIV/AIDS- affected populations. This is a significant contribution to the on-going development of more effective and efficient tools for mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on already vulnerable populations.

In Project Year Four, FANTA will be collaborating with its partners, IFPRI and Cornell University, to compare targeting approaches in food-assisted maternal and child health programs. Using Haiti as a case study, FANTA will examine the benefits of shifting from an activity that just targets malnourished children under five years of age to one that targets all children under two years of age. With this study, FANTA expects to demonstrate that preventing malnutrition in the very young (under two years of age) has a greater and more long-lasting effect than merely treating malnutrition.

During Project Year Four, FANTA, in collaboration with IFPRI and MACRO, will complete a study using DHS data from Ethiopia, to document improved methods for analyzing and reporting infant/child feeding information. Since the DHS infant/child feeding questions have been included in the KPC+ 2000 questionnaire, this activity will support optimal use of the infant/child feeding data generated by the KPC+ 2000.

Measuring Caring Behaviors by household is an important dimension of the determinants of food security. Appropriate infant and child feeding and childcare are increasingly recognized as a key determinants of childhood health, nutrition, and development. Measuring infant/child feeding and care behaviors and quantifying their relative importance for specific health and nutrition outcomes, however, remains a challenge. During Project Year Three, FANTA subcontractor IFPRI completed analysis of data collected in Accra, Ghana to: 1) measure the importance of infant/child feeding and care as a determinant of nutritional status; 2) identify the constraints to good feeding practices in this setting; and 3) identify key feeding and child care practices that could be promoted by nutrition education and behavior change interventions to improve care practices in this population. During Project Year Four, a set of technical briefs will be produced drawing on the results of this work.

II. FANTA'S INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

FANTA's Strategic Objective of improved food and nutrition policy, strategy, and program development will be reached through the achievement of its three Intermediate Results. Specific activities for Project Year Three are discussed under each IR.

- IR1: USAID's and Cooperating Sponsors' (CS) nutrition and food security-related program development, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation improved;
- IR2: USAID, host country governments, and Cooperating Sponsors establish improved, integrated nutrition and food security-related strategies and policies; and
- IR3: Best practices and acceptable standards in nutrition and food security-related policy and programming adopted by USAID, Cooperating Sponsors, and other key stakeholders.

IR 1: USAID's and Cooperating Sponsors' nutrition and food security-related program development, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation improved.

FANTA collaborates with Title II food aid programs because, representing approximately one-third of USAID's total annual budget, they are an important resource and operation to reach undernourished women and children throughout the developing world. Food aid programs represent an important opportunity not only as a direct nutritional input but also because food aid programs are often designed to complement many other health and nutrition activities. Food rations are used to create an environment for increased demand and utilization of services. FANTA works closely with the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Response (BHR) Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation (PVC) and its partners, the child survival PVOs, to ensure technical improvements are shared with the wider development community. By continuing the successful collaborative process established with the BHR Office of Food for Peace (FFP), BHR/PVC, Cooperating Sponsors,¹ PVOs, Field Missions, and USAID's Bureau for Global Programs/Center for Population, Health, and Nutrition (G/PHN), FANTA strengthens the capacities of these and other stakeholders in nutrition and food security problem analysis, design, and progress reporting.

¹ FANTA works with Cooperating Sponsors and Private Voluntary Organizations. Some Cooperating Sponsors are not PVOs but are cooperative associations. For the purposes of this report, Cooperating Sponsors and PVOs will be referred to as PVOs. Cooperating Agencies are USAID-funded projects implemented by universities, research institutions, profit making firms, and PVOs.

1. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 1

During Project Year Three, FANTA continued its broad support to BHR/FFP, BHR/PVC, USAID Field Missions, and PVOs to strengthen programming, reporting, and technical guidance. FANTA continued its technical assistance program in seven priority countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, India, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua). FANTA also provided technical support in Malawi and Uganda to strengthen nutrition and food security programs designed to address the HIV/AIDS situation.

1.1. Support to improve development programming

1.1.1. Technical support to BHR/FFP/DP (Development)

1.1.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security

During Project Year Three, FANTA supported improved nutrition and food security guidance through a range of forums and activities, including revision of guidelines, implementation of training programs, and development of guides.

Commodity Reference Guide Revision: FANTA contributed to updating the *Commodity Reference Guide* (CRG), which provides extensive information on ration design and commodity specifications for Title II development and emergency programs. FANTA provided a comprehensive review of the CRG with a focus on the section detailing uses of food aid commodities for various types of programs. The CRG consists of modules dealing with 1) An Overview, 2) Maternal and Child Health Programs, 3) Food for Work, 4) Food for Education, 5) Non-Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, and 6) Emergency. Following the review and revisions, the updated CRG became available at www.usaid.gov/hum_response/crg. It is used by PVOs, Cooperating Agencies (CAs), and the United Nations (UN) to determine the composition, size, and use of food rations. FANTA's revisions have resulted in more detailed and technically up-to-date information on effective uses of donated commodities in different types of food aid programs.

Non-Fat Dry Milk Guidance: FANTA participated in a USAID Task Force to explore the feasibility and viability of using non-fat dry milk (NFDM) and associated blended commodities, such as corn soy milk and wheat soy milk, in food security programs. After being used during the 1980s in Title II programs, these products were discontinued during the early 1990s due to limited availability of NFDM. During FY 2001 a significant quantity of NFDM became available for use at a competitive price. USAID established the Task Force to examine issues related to NFDM's use, including distribution, monetization, quality, and ensuring that policy guidance support objectives of improved health and nutrition. Of special concern was to ensure that uses of NFDM do not compromise sound infant feeding practices. The marketing of NFDM should not violate the code of marketing established for breast milk substitutes. FANTA's input contributed to the establishment of the FFP policy and guidance on the use of NFDM and associated blended products in Title II programs, including guidelines for safe and effective use and a policy for monetization of the products.

FANTA also worked on the integration of NFDM products into the *Commodity Reference Guide* and helped develop guidelines for the use of NFDM in therapeutic feeding. This guidance provides information to support the use of these products to improve nutritional outcomes.

Training Programs: FANTA supported FFP through several training programs on results reporting, monitoring and evaluation, nutrition interventions, problem assessment, and program design. For example, FANTA conducted sessions on reporting and information systems for 45 USAID and PVO managers at the annual USAID Food Aid Managers Course. FANTA also provided training at a Data Analysis Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya; a workshop in Ethiopia for USAID and PVO staff; and a variety of other venues for USAID and Title II PVOs. Participants at FANTA's training activities include USAID, Title II PVOs, host country government representatives, and other stakeholders. Details of training programs conducted during Project Year Three and their results are given in Section 3.9.

Guides: FANTA continued to produce and revise technical guides to support improved food security and nutrition programming. The *Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide* provides information to assist programs in the collection and reporting of anthropometric information (see Section 3.2.1). FANTA's *Food for Education Indicator Guide* assists programs in monitoring and evaluating outcomes of Title II Food for Education programs (see Section 3.2.3). FANTA also prepared a guide to assist program managers in implementing effective nutritional care and support for people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS (see Section 3.6). The *Evaluation Design Guide* that FANTA is preparing helps programs to design and implement evaluation systems (see Section 3.2.2). FANTA contributed to a review of the *Field Guide for the KPC 2000+*, a tool used for surveys in child survival programs. FANTA will provide more extensive input to the nutrition sections of the Knowledge, Practice and Coverage Survey (KPC) 2000+ modules and guidance materials during Project Year Four (see Sections 3.5.2.a and 1.1.2.a). Details of other guidance documents FANTA prepared are given in Sections 3.1, 3.2, 1.2.2, and 2.3.1.

Nutrition Program Enhancement: FANTA provided technical assistance to enhance nutrition-related Title II programming in specific areas such as emergency response and nutrition and food security responses to HIV/AIDS. These activities are described in greater detail in sections 1.2 and 3.6 respectively.

1.1.1.b. Review Title II development proposals, results reports, and concept papers

FANTA provides reviews and guidance to strengthen new and ongoing Title II development programs. During Project Year Three, FANTA's support included the following main activities:

Written Reviews: FANTA performed written technical reviews of 42 proposed Title II development programs and 37 ongoing programs. Reviewed programs are listed below in Tables 1 and 2. Approximately half of the Title II development programs completed their five-year cycles in FY 2001, and reviews of new program proposals provided an opportunity for FANTA to strengthen programming for the upcoming five-year cycle. FANTA's reviews focused on food security problem analyses, implementation strategies, and monitoring and evaluation. For

ongoing programs, FANTA reviewed the annual reports and results information and provided comments and recommendations on progress and on future activities and direction. A recent survey of FANTA stakeholders indicates that this input is highly valued by PVOs and has contributed to improved program design. For example, one PVO stated, “FANTA staff were very helpful in providing an overview of our DAPs’ [proposals’] strong and weak points.”

Field Reviews: FANTA participated in field reviews for programs in Haiti, Burkina Faso (in Mali), and Nicaragua, which involved on-site observation of program activities, interviews with USAID, PVO, and beneficiary representatives, and/or discussions with key stakeholders about proposed programs and design improvements. Field reviews beyond these three countries were not conducted by FANTA because the timetable mandated by Congress for proposal review and the large number of proposals this year made it more efficient for FANTA to direct its resources toward Washington-based reviews.

Review Meetings: In addition to written and field reviews, FANTA participated in Washington-based review meetings with FFP and PVOs. FANTA provided technical input to these meetings and helped to facilitate resolution of key technical issues.

Pre- and Post-Proposal Guidance: In addition to the formal review processes, FANTA also provided guidance to PVOs that requested reviews and recommendations for concept papers and initial proposal drafts prior to submission. Assessments and feedback suggest that FANTA serves a valuable function in this role. An external evaluation that took place this year of a PVO’s institutional strengthening activities stated that “staff has gained invaluable experience in its technical support from FANTA in designing the M&E plan for its DAP [proposal] presentation.” In response to the stakeholder survey, one PVO stated that in preparing its Title II proposal, FANTA “provided extremely helpful comments” and that its “technical assistance was irreplaceable.” Following the proposal review process, FANTA responded to requests from FFP and PVOs for technical support to help strengthen program design and implementation. For example, in response to FFP’s request following proposal reviews, FANTA conducted a training workshop for all of Adventist Development and Relief Agency’s (ADRA) Title II programs to enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities. (See Section 3.9 for more information.)

Results of FANTA Input: Several Title II program proposals reflected technical improvements promoted by FANTA, such as increased emphasis on universal supplementary feeding of children under two as a strategy for prevention of malnutrition. Also evident in many proposals were improved design of monitoring and evaluation plans and increased relevance of M&E plans to the program design and food security issues. For example, an external evaluation of a PVO stated, “Monitoring and evaluation plans developed by [the PVO] for their Title II programs in Cape Verde, Uganda, Rwanda demonstrate a high level of sophistication and sound understanding of monitoring and evaluation methodologies. The monitoring and evaluation plans are reflective of...extensive interaction between [program staff] and [PVO] headquarters and FANTA, FAM and other PVOs.” FANTA continues to provide PVOs with information and guidance on nutrition strategies, monitoring and evaluation, and other issues.

Input to GFFEI: FANTA reviewed and ranked the 42 PVO program proposals received by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and USAID for the Global Food for Education Initiative (GFFEI) that included specific nutrition objectives. FANTA's reviews focused on the nutrition objectives and interventions and ranked each program by the likelihood of achieving these objectives. GFFEI launched food-assisted education activities as one-year pilot programs during FY 2001. Information and indicators from FANTA's *Food for Education Indicator Guide* (see Section 3.2.3) were used by GFFEI in the monitoring and evaluation system used to assess program progress. In a correspondence to USAID regarding FANTA's support to GFFEI, USDA stated that FANTA's "valuable assistance and guidance...was extremely helpful...and as a result, USDA is building our evaluation around some of the FANTA indicators."

Table 1. New Title II Development Program Proposals Reviewed during FY 2001

<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>PVO</i>
AFRICA	Burkina Faso	CRS
	Cape Verde	ACDI/VOCA
	Eritrea	Africare
	Ghana	ADRA
		CRS
		TNS
	Guinea	OICI
	Kenya	WVI
	Mozambique	ADRA
		Africare
		CARE
		FHI
		SCF
		WVI
	Senegambia	CRS
	Uganda	ACDI/VOCA
		Africare
		CRS
ASIA	India	CARE
		CRS
LATIN AMERICA	Bolivia	ACDI/VOCA
		ADRA
		CARE
		FHI
		I CAN
		Project Concern International
		SCF
	Guatemala	CRS
	Haiti	CRS
		CARE
		SCF
		WVI
	Nicaragua	ADRA
		CRS
		Project Concern International
		SCF
	Peru	ADRA
		CARE
		CARITAS
		PRISMA
		Winrock
		WVI

Table 2. Title II Development Program Annual Reports with Results and Resource Information (CSR4s) Reviewed during FY 2001

<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>PVO</i>
AFRICA	Benin	CRS
	Chad	Africare
	Ethiopia	Africare
		CARE
		CRS
		EOC
		FHI
		REST
		SCF
		WVI
	Gambia	CRS
	Ghana	OICI
	Guinea	ADRA
		Africare
		OICI
	Kenya	CRS
	Madagascar	ADRA
		CRS
	Malawi	CRS
	Mali	Africare
	Mauritania	Doulos/WVI
	Niger	Africare/CARE/CRS
	Rwanda	ACDI/VOCA
		CRS
		WVI
	Uganda	TNS
		WVI
	West Africa	WVI/Winrock
ASIA	Bangladesh	CARE
		WVI
	Indonesia	WVI
LATIN AMERICA	Guatemala	SHARE
		SCF
	Honduras	CARE
	Peru	CRS
		TNS

1.1.1.c. Assist in development of BHR/FFP Strategic Objective 2 (FFP/DP) FY 2002-2006 Strategic Plan and Results Framework

FANTA assisted in the production of the FY 2000 Results Report for FFP's development program, which formed the basis of the FY 2003 Results Report and Resource Request (R4) submission. FANTA described many examples of Title II development programs' successful impacts on food security. The R4, part of the U.S. government's strategy to improve agency performance and demonstrate results, is used to report results to Congress. The R4 is an example of the end-use of results reporting that FANTA supports through its technical assistance to PVOs and USAID.

FANTA has played an important technical function in the past development of the Strategic Plan for both the development and emergency components of FFP. The expectation was that FFP would require FANTA's continued support for this during Project Year Three. FFP decided to postpone its development of the new Strategic Plan and Results Framework for FFP's development and emergency programs until FY 2002. The delay was in order to be able to respond to the findings of the FANTA-led assessment of Title II programs (see Section 2.1.3) occurring this year and to developments occurring within USAID. FANTA will be assisting in development of the new strategy and results framework during Project Year Four.

1.1.1.d. Provide technical assistance to Institutional Support Agreements

During Project Year Three, FANTA supported Institutional Support Agreement (ISA) recipients and USAID to plan, execute, and interpret evaluations of ISAs and to report on results of investments in institutional strengthening and improved capacity. ISAs are Cooperative Agreements competitively awarded to Title II PVOs by FFP to support technical initiatives in food security and nutrition. Of the 14 current recipients, 12 undertook mid-term reviews of their ISAs and 2 undertook final evaluations during Project Year Three. The support to the ISA recipients complements FANTA's work with the Child Survival Collaborations and Resources Group (CORE) consortium of PVOs operating child survival programs (see Section 1.1.2.a). In Project Year Three, FANTA provided the following technical assistance:

Implementation Plan Review: FANTA reviewed ISA grantees' Detailed Implementation Plans and participated in grants committee meetings with FFP.

Evaluation SOW Review: FANTA reviewed scopes of work (SOWs) for mid-term and final evaluations and helped PVO grantees and USAID hone the SOWs to ensure evaluations yield useful information about key aspects of the ISAs. FANTA facilitated ISA Managers meetings in which guidance was provided on the evaluation process and follow-up.

Review of Evaluation Results: Following completion of the evaluations, FANTA reviewed 14 of the evaluation reports. FANTA presented a summary of evaluation results to ISA Managers, based on which a plan was made to present key findings and proposed future directions at a meeting with FFP management and senior PVO management. This meeting will be held during the first quarter of Project Year Four. FANTA's support of the evaluation process helped FFP and PVOs to better understand the degree of progress made under the ISAs and to identify future needs.

FANTA's Impact: Several of the ISA evaluation reports pointed to the significant positive impact that FANTA's technical assistance has had on PVOs' capacity to effectively implement food security programs. Areas cited in evaluation reports as benefiting from FANTA's input include monitoring and evaluation, application of food security analyses to program planning, and development of quality program proposals. For example, the evaluation of one ISA recipient stated that they had "benefited importantly from numerous consultations with the FANTA M&E technical advisor...[and] received a significant level of technical assistance."

1.1.2. Technical support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Field Missions

During Project Year Three many opportunities arose for FANTA to provide technical support to PVOs and USAID Missions. In selecting where to target technical assistance, higher priority was given to meeting one or more of the following conditions: 1) high impact countries, or countries in which joint USAID programming exists; 2) results and lessons from the technical assistance are of general relevance to other programs or to USAID's broader development activities; 3) larger programs; and 4) opportunities for technical assistance to have a multiplier effect with other programs, host government initiatives, and local non-governmental organization (NGO) activities.

1.1.2.a. Provide technical assistance to CSs and USAID Field Missions

Through training workshops, technical review of program documents and guidance, participation in working groups, facilitation of information exchange, and support of tool development, FANTA provided a broad range of technical assistance in Project Year Three to Title II PVOs and Missions to strengthen programming.

Program Guidance: Throughout the year, FANTA provided guidance to PVOs and USAID Missions on a range of specific technical issues in response to requests for assistance received by e-mail, telephone, and meetings. The most common subjects on which FANTA's support was requested were monitoring and evaluation—including issues of sampling and indicator selection—nutrition and ration issues, pre-reviews of program proposals, and survey implementation. FANTA responded to these requests with information, guidance, and references to documents and resources. These technical assistance episodes, while less formalized than FANTA's other activities, serve as a frequent and rapid source of information and guidance to PVOs and Missions. Feedback from Missions and PVOs indicates that this assistance serves as a source of strong technical support and has led to programming improvements. For example, in an e-mail correspondence, a USAID FFP Officer stated, "I know the conceptual framework for the project is much improved thanks to your [FANTA's] expertise and professionalism and that the Africare/USAID agenda in this part of Sub-Saharan Africa will advance more swiftly as a result." Similarly, a PVO respondent to the recent stakeholder survey stated that "FANTA TA [is] extremely helpful and they always responded quickly and thoroughly to questions."

Africare M&E Training: In response to a request from Africare, FANTA conducted two training workshops in Mali for 30 participants to enhance Africare's reporting and M&E capacity. The first, a five-day workshop for 7 of Africare's 9 Title II programs, focused on improving the

quality of program reporting and resulted in production of a template and guide for annual results reports. The second, a four-day workshop for Africare's 5 West Africa programs, focused on improving M&E practices and resulted in enhanced program capacity, analyses of methodologies, and documentation of key lessons learned. Participant feedback suggests that the workshop met an important need. An illustrative participant comment in the workshop evaluation was that "the workshop was very professional and relevant to the needs of my country program. Bravo to FFP and FANTA." In addition to enhancing Africare's capacity, the workshop also resulted in lessons and products that FANTA has used to strengthen other PVOs' reporting and M&E systems.

ADRA M&E Training: At the request of FFP and ADRA, FANTA conducted a training workshop for the M&E Officers of all eight of ADRA's Title II programs. The workshop focused on enhancing program staff's capacity to design effective M&E plans and targets, with particular emphasis on the performance reporting required by FFP. As a result of the workshop, ADRA significantly improved the M&E plans for its programs that begin new cycles in FY 2002 and addressed the major deficiencies identified in the earlier plans. As follow-up to the workshop, FANTA provided reviews of the revised M&E plans and targets for the five new programs. The package of tools and materials FANTA developed for this workshop provide step-by-step guidance in the development of an M&E plan and targets for performance reporting. FANTA will make this package available to the larger Title II PVO community to help strengthen M&E capacity.

M&E PVO Working Group: FANTA participated in PVO working groups organized by the ISA-funded Food Aid Management (FAM) to develop tools and guidance for improved practices in Title II programs. FANTA was an active participant in the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, which developed a compendium of monitoring tools for Title II programs during Project Year Three. FANTA provided technical guidance to the process of preparing the compendium, which responds to the expressed need of Title II PVOs for improved program monitoring tools. The compendium contributes to a larger process FANTA has been supporting to enhance programs' monitoring practices and their use of monitoring information. It will be introduced at a workshop for PVOs during Project Year Four.

Local Capacity Building PVO Working Group: Many of the technical strengthening activities undertaken by FANTA and its partner PVOs concern various aspects of capacity building. In PVOs' work with local NGOs and with their own local organizations, capacity building is a dominant objective. FANTA participated regularly in the FAM Local Capacity Building Working Group, which began an assessment of indicators used by Title II programs to measure local capacity building. The activity involves analysis of existing indicators and identification of sets of promising indicators and measurement tools. FANTA contributed to the planning and oversight of this activity, which will provide information to Title II PVOs during Project Year Four on improved measurement of local capacity building. Adoption of identified indicators and practices is expected to lead to more effective local capacity building—an important part of many food security program components—and to improved tracking of results. A PVO respondent to the stakeholder survey stated that FANTA's participation in the working group "played a large positive role, previously in the design of the working group's capacity building indicator assessment project, and currently in its implementation."

Draft Proposal Review: In response to PVO requests, FANTA reviewed the concept papers and draft proposals for several Title II programs that are due to begin in FY 2002. FANTA offered guidance to the programs to improve program design and implementation, with particular focus on food security problem analyses, expected food security impact of program components, and the soundness and relevance of monitoring and evaluation systems.

Support to Child Survival and CORE/FAM Collaboration:

During Project Year Three, FANTA engaged in a series of activities to support nutrition interventions in child survival programs and to generate increased collaboration and exchange among Title II PVOs (represented by FAM) and child survival PVOs (represented by CORE). FANTA participated in CORE's annual meeting and gave presentations on HIV/AIDS nutritional care and support and women's nutrition. The CORE PVOs expressed interest in pursuing further opportunities to exchange information and share best practices with FANTA and with FAM PVOs. FANTA's participation in this meeting helped to inform the content of the joint CORE/FAM workshop implemented later in the year.

In collaboration with the BHR/PVC-funded Child Survival Technical Support Project (CSTS), FAM, and CORE, FANTA facilitated a workshop for child survival and Title II programming staff to share information and establish collaborations for improved nutrition programming. Discussions and small group working sessions complemented technical presentations on specific programming issues, including a presentation by FANTA on the uses of anthropometry. The workshop served both as a forum for exchange and as a first step toward further collaborative efforts. Workshop results included heightened awareness by both groups about the others' activities, increased knowledge about specific topics such as anthropometry and community nutrition tools, establishment of stronger communication channels, and identification of areas of synergy for further collaboration. Because considerable overlap exists between child survival and Title II program tools and because each group possesses valuable expertise and experiences, it is expected that both types of programs will benefit from continued interactions, which FANTA will continue to facilitate.

At the request of PVC, FANTA reviewed proposals (Detailed Implementation Plans) for new child survival programs that contain significant nutrition components. In addition to desk reviews, FANTA participated in review meetings with PVC and PVOs. FANTA offered recommendations of ways to strengthen the nutritional impact of program interventions. Based on this work, PVC has requested FANTA to continue to review such proposals in the upcoming year and to provide a technical review of the Hearth manual, a new implementation guide for child survival programs.

During Project Year Three, FANTA reviewed the Technical Reference Materials (TRM), which USAID issues as guidance for child survival programs. FANTA's review focused on the TRM's nutrition sections and will be submitted during Project Year Four.

PVC has expressed strong satisfaction with the results achieved from FANTA's involvement and has requested FANTA to continue to provide technical assistance to child survival programming during the upcoming year.

1.1.2.b. Improve/strengthen existing program design

FANTA continued to provide in-country technical support to selected Title II programs. Programs were selected where the lessons learned from technical assistance would also strengthen other programs, inform food security strategies, or enrich guidelines and better practices for use by the wider food security and nutrition community. During Project Year Three, FANTA provided in-country technical assistance to strengthen Title II program design in six priority countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua). Detailed descriptions of in-country assistance provided to priority countries are given in Section 1.3.

In addition to support to priority countries, FANTA also provided in-country technical assistance in Malawi and in Uganda to strengthen implementation and monitoring and evaluation of Title II food aid programs designed to address HIV/AIDS. FANTA's inputs served to strengthen these two programs' M&E systems and to develop indicators with greater relevance to program objectives. Results of this technical assistance also serve as guidance for other food security responses to HIV/AIDS in the region. Because food aid interventions aimed to specifically address the food security impact of HIV/AIDS are relatively new, the lessons from FANTA's technical support help to inform the design of other programs. (See Section 3.6 for more information.)

1.1.2.c. Participate in mid-term/final year evaluations of Title II development activities

FANTA provided guidance to the planning, interpretation, and follow-up of evaluations of Title II development programs. The resulting evaluation processes have led to increased understanding on the part of USAID and PVOs of program strengths and weaknesses. As follow-up to the evaluations, FANTA helped Missions and PVOs respond to key evaluation results in their program planning. Evaluation results have informed the design of future programs and have enabled improvements to be made in ongoing programs. Involvement in the evaluation process has also enabled FANTA to identify and document promising practices in Title II programs and in the performance of program evaluations. FANTA continues to disseminate this information to assist other programs.

During Project Year Three, FANTA supported Title II evaluations through the following activities:

Evaluation SOW Guidance: FANTA conducted desk reviews of several SOWs for Title II program evaluations. Based on FANTA's technical input, Africare developed a guide detailing recommended activities for improved pre-evaluation preparation. In order to widely disseminate this information to the broader PVO community and to provide relevant consistent guidance on the subject, FANTA will prepare a technical brief on evaluation SOWs in Project Year Four.

Haiti: FANTA helped to design and plan the final evaluation of Title II programs in Haiti. Following completion of the evaluation, FANTA assisted USAID/Port-au-Prince and the PVOs to interpret the results of the evaluation and to integrate evaluation results into the design of the

new cycle of programs.

Honduras: FANTA assisted in designing the final evaluation of CARE/Honduras' Title II program and provided examples of promising practices for evaluation SOWs. FANTA also provided on-site technical support to the analysis and reporting of evaluation results and reviewed evaluation data.

Ethiopia: In Ethiopia FANTA assisted the individual PVOs in preparing their qualitative final evaluations and supported the Mission in interpreting the quantitative evaluation of the entire Title II program. FANTA reviewed the results of the quantitative and qualitative evaluations and provided recommendations to the Mission and PVOs on the use of key results from these evaluations to improve program interventions. In a correspondence to USAID/Washington, the Mission stated, "FANTA's assistance throughout the evaluation has been extraordinary."

Mali and Burkina: FANTA provided guidance in the development of SOWs and in the planning of evaluations for Africare programs in Mali and Burkina. FANTA provided input on assessment techniques, logistics, evaluation team members, and the formation of SOWs.

1.2. Support to improve emergency and transition programming

Emergency response continues to be a critical function of USAID and its partners. FANTA continued to work with the FFP Emergency Program Division (FFP/EP) to technically strengthen emergency response activities and programs addressing the transition from emergency to development. FANTA's work focused on strengthening the nutritional impact of emergency and transition activities and on improving reporting of this impact. During Project Year Three, FANTA provided technical input to programming guidelines, reviewed program proposals and results, strengthened information and reporting processes, assisted program design and tool development, and participated in assessments of specific emergency situations and emergency response activities.

1.2.1. Technical support to BHR/FFP/EP (Emergency)

1.2.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security for emergency and transition programming

Emergency Ration Bar: FANTA provided technical assistance to USAID in the development of a ready-to-eat compact food to meet nutritional needs in emergency situations. The planned emergency ration bar (ERB) meets the need for a compact food that provides essential nutrients and helps prevent malnutrition for up to 30 days for different age and physiological needs in emergency situations. FANTA prepared two technical papers to support ERB development, one a background study of compact emergency relief foods and the other a derivation of the proposed nutritional composition of the ERB. These findings were presented to USAID for submission to a special review committee at the National Academy of Science (NAS). The NAS review will lead to the issuance in FY 2002 of ERB specifications. USAID has asked FANTA to continue to support ERB development through field-testing and review of the ERB specifications after they are issued by the NAS. Production and use of the ERB is expected to improve the capacity of

emergency response activities to meet short-term nutritional needs.

Short-Term Development or Transition Program Guidance: In collaboration with a FFP working group, FANTA produced guidelines for Title II programs operating in situations of transition from emergency to development. These activities, called short-term development programs, are an increasingly critical area of Title II programming. The guidelines prepared by FANTA present information about objectives, intervention types, M&E, and reporting for transition activities. Following a careful internal review, FFP decided not to issue separate guidelines for transition activities. The information and key points of the proposed guidelines were integrated into the annual policy letter through which FFP provides program guidance to PVOs.

Training: FANTA conducted training for USAID and its partners on emergency Title II program objectives, reporting requirements, problem assessment, design, and M&E. For example, at USAID's annual Food Aid Manager's Course, FANTA trained 45 USAID and PVO managers in reporting and information systems in emergency programs. Other FANTA training on emergencies included sessions on appropriate indicators to assess adult malnutrition at the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination/Subcommittee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) meeting detailed below. These training opportunities contribute to the enhanced capacity of USAID and its partners to design, implement, and report on effective emergency response interventions.

M&E Indicators: FANTA also supported the testing of two indicators used in emergencies: crude mortality rate and nutritional status (wasting). By working with the Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) of the ACC/SCN and select PVOs, these indicators were tested and disseminated in different situations. (See Section 1.2.1.c for more information.)

Adult Under-Nutrition Guidance: In response to the need for improved guidance on assessment and treatment of severely malnourished adults in emergency situations, FANTA supported the ACC/SCN Working Group on Emergencies to facilitate a meeting of experts, make recommendations, and produce a report. At the meeting, held in Kenya at the Annual ACC/SCN Conference in April, 2001, recommendations and better practices were discussed and disseminated among members of the international and Eastern and Southern Africa nutrition communities. The resulting report, *Assessment of Adult Under-Nutrition in Emergencies*, summarizes key practical recommendations and was disseminated to emergency nutrition stakeholders. The meeting and report resulted in stakeholders' increased awareness of and access to better practices for adult under-nutrition assessment and treatment.

Infant Feeding in Emergencies Guidelines: In collaboration with the LINKAGES project, FANTA provided technical input to the *Operational Guidance for Infant Feeding in Emergencies*. FANTA contributed to a working group for development of guidelines and helped to ensure that the guidelines included better practices and accepted protocols. These guidelines provide information and recommendations to assist program staff and policy makers in designing and implementing infant feeding components of emergency response activities.

Commodity Reference Guide: As part of its technical input to the revised *Commodity Reference Guide*, FANTA provided input on how to effectively use food commodities in emergency

response programs. The CRG is widely used to guide the selection of commodities and the design of rations for emergency response programs. FANTA also began planning program guides to be developed with Helen Keller International on addressing vitamin A deficiency using Title II commodities in emergency and development situations. It was decided that these guides would focus on development programming, not emergencies. (See section 3.2.7 for more information.)

1.2.1.b. Review Title II emergency and short-term development proposals, results reports, and concept papers

FANTA conducted technical reviews of proposals, results reports, and concept papers for Title II emergency and short-term development programs. Examples include reviews of proposals for short-term (transition) programs in Liberia and Indonesia, the M&E plan for a Sierra Leone program, and a number of program results reports and concept papers. FANTA provided comments and recommendations to strengthen program strategies, M&E plans and indicators, and uses of rations.

1.2.1.c. Assist results reporting for BHR/FFP Strategic Objective 1 (FFP/EP)

Results Report: FANTA provided technical input to the FY 2000 Results Report for FFP's emergency program, which formed the basis for the FY 2003 Results Report and Resource Request (R4) submission. FANTA provided information on results achieved during the past year in nutritional impact and monitoring and evaluation. The R4 is used to report the results of USAID programs to Congress and is an example of the end-use of results reporting that FANTA supports.

RNIS Reports: FANTA collaborated with the ACC/SCN to support the production of the RNIS reports. These reports provide information about the nutritional status of refugees and displaced persons, which is used to help assess need, track progress and demonstrate results of USAID programs. The RNIS contributes to USAID's broader goal of instituting a global, coordinated system to gather, analyze, report, and disseminate information on the progress of emergency relief assistance. Information from these reports is used to report to Congress the impact of USAID's humanitarian assistance activities. The Humanitarian Assistance chapter of the Annual Report to Congress reflects the contribution of FANTA's work on indicators and emergency reporting.

Crude Mortality Rate Use: FANTA worked with the RNIS and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Department of Emergency and Humanitarian Action to coordinate compilation and analysis of nutritional status and crude mortality rate data of refugees and displaced populations. This information is used to monitor and report the results of USAID's humanitarian assistance programs. During Project Year Three, data were collected and analyzed from 12 sites (Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda). These efforts resulted in the joint adoption of crude mortality rate by USAID and the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration as one of their humanitarian response performance indicators. Interest has been generated in these indicators by UN humanitarian assistance agencies, notably the World Food

Program (WFP), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and WHO.

Strategic Plan: FANTA has played an important technical function in the past development of the Strategic Plan for both the development and emergency components of FFP. The expectation was that FFP would require FANTA's continued support for this during Project Year Three. FFP decided to develop the new Emergency Program Strategic Plan and Results Framework during FY 2002, instead of in FY 2001 as originally planned. FANTA will assist in its development during Project Year Four.

1.2.1.d. Develop and revise database system for FFP/EP

During Project Year Three, FANTA began the process of refining the database for Title II emergency program results. The database records the indicators, annual progress and targets for FFP-funded emergency activities. These data are essential to assist FFP in reporting to USAID and Congress on its emergency activities. A new FFP institutional support contractor, which will maintain this database, was contracted to begin in FY 2002, and the refinement process will be completed during Project Year Four. FANTA will work with the new contractor to assist it in taking over the role of building and maintaining the database.

1.2.2. Technical support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Field Missions

1.2.2.a. Provide technical assistance to Cooperating Sponsors and Field Missions

Program Support: As with Title II development programs, FANTA responded to requests from PVOs, USAID, and other CAs for technical assistance in Title II emergency and short-term development programs. In addition to document reviews and more formal forms of technical assistance, FANTA also provided guidance and input to specific technical questions through e-mail, telephone conversations, and meetings. Common subjects for FANTA's assistance were ration selection, infant feeding, and monitoring and evaluation in emergencies. For example, FANTA provided input to the USAID Regional Economic Development Services Office/East and Southern Africa (REDSO/ESA) on the Somalia Integrated Strategic Plan and provided guidance on the use of a nutrition indicator. A PVO respondent to the FANTA stakeholder survey described the assistance FANTA provided in the process of planning a nutrition baseline survey for an emergency food aid program and stated that FANTA's "assistance has been extremely helpful."

Feeding Protocols: FANTA provided technical support to USAID's efforts to enable the use of standardized protocols and reporting tools for therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs in emergency situations. FANTA conducted a review of the standardized protocols and tools and their use in Burundi, where national protocols have been cited as an example of effective coordination. In its review FANTA examined how the protocols are maintained and adopted and whether this system can be replicated in other countries. FANTA also provided technical assistance to implementing partners to promote adoption of standardized protocols. In a summary report, FANTA presented key findings on the system used in Burundi and on its replicability in other complex emergencies. Results of the review provide information and

guidance to assist in the development and application of protocols for feeding programs. These findings will be elaborated on in a technical brief that will provide guidance to USAID and its partners about Burundi's system and how similar systems could be established elsewhere.

Pellagra Assessment: At the request of FFP, FANTA conducted a review of the pellagra situation in Angola that examines the extent of pellagra's existence and its determinants and offers recommendations for appropriate interventions to address the disease. Demand for this review stemmed from reports of high levels of pellagra, a disease resulting from inadequate intake or absorption of niacin, in parts of Angola. FANTA performed a field review in the Bie province of Angola that involved data collection, interviews, and site visits, followed by analysis of the data. FANTA completed a draft report that provides a detailed analysis of the situation and offers phased recommendations to improve the situation and prevent further outbreaks. Following FFP's review, the report will be issued in Project Year Four, and results are expected to inform interventions by USAID and its partners to address pellagra.

Orientation in Program Reporting: To enhance PVO capacity to effectively monitor and report on emergency programs, FANTA provided orientation to PVOs operating new emergency programs in FFP's results framework and reporting requirements. FANTA performed this through ongoing technical assistance and through organized training such as at the Food Aid Managers Workshop (see Section 1.2.1.a).

1.2.2.b. Improve existing emergency and transition program design

Title II Program Guidance: As described in sections 1.2.1.b and 1.2.2.a above, FANTA provided technical assistance to USAID and PVOs in the design of Title II emergency and transition programs. Through review of proposals and other documents, participation in review meetings, and responses to specific technical questions, FANTA strengthened intervention strategies, ration design, and M&E systems.

Kenya EMOP Assessment: In response to a request from USAID, FANTA participated in a multi-sectoral, multi-agency assessment of the emergency operation (EMOP) drought response that the World Food Program conducted in Kenya during 2000 and 2001. The EMOP covered a large geographic region (86% of Kenya's land area) and population (over 4.4 million people) and used a number of new food aid methods. A central purpose of the assessment was to inform future food aid activities in Kenya. A FANTA food aid specialist served as a member of the assessment team and conducted field visits, document reviews, and interviews. FANTA prepared a synopsis of findings and lessons learned regarding the impact of the EMOP's food aid, nutrition, and health components. Following review by REDSO/ESA and FFP, these findings will be disseminated during Project Year Four to inform future food aid efforts.

Food Aid Targeting Assessment: In response to a request from REDSO/ESA to investigate better practices for targeting food aid in complex emergencies, FANTA had conducted an assessment during Project Year Two of the Household Food Economy (HFE) methodology developed by Save the Children-UK. During Project Year Three, FANTA issued the final report of this assessment, titled *Household Food Economy Interviews: How Well Do They Monitor Food Security and Food Aid Use in Camps of Persons Displaced by Protracted Emergencies?*

The report concluded that HFE tools can contribute significantly to assessing food security and monitoring food aid use in displaced persons camps. The report also concluded that additional tools are needed to complement HFE interviews and that further testing and analysis are called for. This assessment opens the way for further investigation and for expanded use of this promising practice to improve food aid targeting and monitoring in complex emergencies.

Emergency Food Aid Managers Checklist: FANTA completed a draft checklist to assist emergency food aid managers in the design and implementation of food distribution operations. Titled *Checklist for Food Aid Managers Setting Up Emergency Food Distributions with References to Useful Resource Materials*, the document provides key information and references to help food aid managers organize operations effectively.

Review of Emergency Food Aid Management Resources: As part of the process of assessing technical assistance needs for emergency food aid managers, FANTA conducted a review of existing resource materials for emergency food aid managers and prepared a descriptive bibliography of key documents. FANTA also elicited input from a range of PVOs, researchers, donors, CAs, and others regarding perceived needs. Based on this input, FANTA discussed with REDSO/ESA next steps for technical assistance in this area. FANTA's technical support to strengthen emergency food aid management will begin in Project Year Four.

1.3. Country-specific activities

FANTA provides Washington-based technical assistance to all of the PVOs implementing development and emergency Title II programs in over 30 countries. In-country technical assistance is concentrated in seven priority countries. This in-country technical support by FANTA staff and consultants enhances the technical capacity of PVOs, leads to improved strategies and practices, and ensures continuity and follow-up on recommendations. This technical assistance also serves as an opportunity to document key lessons learned to be shared more widely with PVOs in other countries, with USAID (both in Washington and at Missions), and with host country governments. FANTA receives field support funds from USAID Field Missions to carry out in-country activities in the seven priority countries.

During Project Year Three, FANTA provided technical support to Ethiopia, Madagascar, India, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua. FANTA ensures complementarity between in-country technical assistance and activities under the other two IRs.

1.3.1. Ethiopia

According to Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) 2000 data, Ethiopia has the highest maternal malnutrition rate and the second highest stunting rate (52%) in Sub-Saharan Africa. USAID/Addis Ababa recognizes that in order to achieve the overall goal of its Integrated Strategic Plan for 2002-2006 ("Reduction in Chronic Food Insecurity"), increased attention must be given to nutrition. Through a combination of training, consultations, field-based assistance, workshops, and technical reviews with the Mission and its partners, FANTA supported enhancement of maternal and child nutrition strategies and programming. FANTA's technical assistance has resulted in improved design, implementation, and assessment of food security and

nutrition programs, enhanced strategic planning for food security and nutrition, and stronger linkages to the government through the use of nutrition advocacy tools.

The Title II program in Ethiopia (valued at approximately \$35.4 million in FY 2001) is implemented by CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry International (FHI), Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC), REST (Relief Society of Tigre), Save the Children Fund (SCF), Africare, and World Vision International (WVI). The activities of the eight PVOs cover a variety of food security program interventions: agriculture, natural resource management, micro-enterprise, water and sanitation, maternal and child health and nutrition, and other child feeding/humanitarian assistance. In addition, the Mission has a development assistance portfolio focused on maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS.

Project Year Three: In-Country Technical Support Activities

Food Security Strategy: FANTA provided technical input to USAID/Addis Ababa's strategic planning, and supported integration of nutrition into the Mission's strategic plan and results framework. In particular, FANTA provided comprehensive technical assistance in the form of a document outlining how cooperation with PVOs on a sector-by-sector basis could benefit Mission strategic objectives. This document led to the hiring of a consultant tasked with developing an administrative model for such a collaboration. In part as a result of these recommendations, the Mission has decided to allocate Mission funds on a regular basis to PVOs in support of Title II activities that directly complement Mission interventions. In a correspondence to USAID/Washington, the Mission stated that FANTA performed "excellent work...help[ing] us integrate nutrition interventions throughout the program."

Nutrition Advocacy: Continuing a process begun in Project Year Two to advance a nutrition agenda, FANTA conducted a second PROFILES workshop in Ethiopia in November, 2000. An advocacy tool that projects the health and other costs of poor nutrition, PROFILES was used to demonstrate the need for stronger nutrition policy and strategies. Because the issues are complex and inter-related, it was decided to initially focus the advocacy effort on the Mission and its PVO partners. By focusing on this narrow group of stakeholders, FANTA ensured support from the Mission before engaging a wider audience. The next step involved presenting the results of the PROFILES analysis to the Government of Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, regional health authorities, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and the World Bank. The facts, analysis, and recommendations that emerged from the two workshops have contributed to increased emphasis on nutrition in USAID programming, government policies, strategic planning, and institutional allocations. Among the outcomes to which the workshops contributed are reestablishment of the government's nutrition office, use of PROFILES information in regional government planning, and a planned Policy Gap Analysis to assess how to most effectively impact nutrition through policy interventions. FANTA considers the use of the PROFILES modeling and presentation tool as integral to improving nutrition policies and strategies, but its success can only be assured when the tool is linked to a well-thought out strategy with a defined set of objectives and mix of resources.

Enhanced Food Security Programming: Through a series of training sessions, field-based TA visits, and technical review of key proposals and other documents, FANTA provided recommendations and guidance to Title II PVOs for improvement of the design and

implementation of their programs, with particular emphasis on nutritional components. For example, FANTA provided training to USAID and PVOs in community-based nutrition, which is described in greater detail in Section 3.9. In a correspondence to USAID/Washington, the Mission stated that this training “was a very successful exercise with which we are very pleased.” FANTA’s support has led to improved integration of nutrition into the Mission’s programs, as demonstrated by strengthened Title II proposals and enhanced nutrition interventions.

M&E: FANTA assisted the individual PVOs in preparing their qualitative final evaluations and supported the Mission in interpreting the quantitative evaluation of the entire Title II program. FANTA reviewed the results of the quantitative and qualitative evaluations and provided recommendations to the Mission and PVOs in the use of key results from these evaluations to improve program interventions. FANTA also assisted PVOs in strengthening and streamlining program M&E systems.

Expanded Use of Infant/Child Feeding Data: FANTA seeks opportunities to improve program reporting by refining the choice and presentation of nutrition and food security indicators. FANTA has begun an analysis of Ethiopia’s DHS 2000 data in order to enable greater use of DHS information on infant/child feeding practices. The data will be used to develop a model infant/child feeding practices index and to quantify the association between infant/child feeding practices and nutritional status. Specific recommendations will also be provided to USAID/Addis Ababa for an appropriate child feeding indicator to use in its Integrated Strategic Plan to measure the impact of interventions aimed at improving infant/child feeding practices. This work is being done in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and ORC Macro, the DHS contractor. The analysis began during Project Year Three and will be completed during Project Year Four.

1.3.2. Madagascar

The Title II program in Madagascar (valued at approximately \$6.6 million in FY 2001) is implemented by ADRA, CARE and CRS. Program activities include interventions in agriculture, maternal and child health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and other child feeding/humanitarian assistance. The Title II program also includes disaster mitigation, as well as urban development in the capital city, Antananarivo.

FANTA has been working with USAID/Antananarivo for the past two years to strengthen food security strategies and interventions. FANTA’s support to the Mission initially concentrated on desk reviews of Title II programs. These reviews provided the basis for technical assistance to nutrition and food security programming that includes both the Title II program and the Mission’s broader food security and child survival portfolio. During Project Year Three, this technical assistance focused primarily on the development of a Food Security Situation Analysis document and on the provision of technical support to Title II PVOs in program design and M&E.

Project Year Three: In-Country Technical Support Activities

Food Security Situation Analysis: In response to the request of USAID/Antananarivo, FANTA drafted a Food Security Strategy for the Mission reflecting the current food security situation in the country and recommending opportunities for better integration of Mission resources, including Title II. At a workshop held with the entire Mission staff and FANTA to discuss the document, it was decided to make the document a Food Security Situation Analysis. This change provided FANTA with greater latitude in making recommendations and enabled the document to be published and shared with other USAID Missions. The completed document is being used by USAID/Antananarivo in program and strategy planning and will serve as a keystone of the Mission's new Integrated Strategic Plan for 2003-2007, which will be submitted to USAID/Washington in the first quarter of FY 2002. The document also serves as an example for other Missions of an effective tool for food security analysis and its application to strategy and program design.

Program M&E and Design: Through in-country visits and through reviews of proposals and program tools, FANTA provided technical support to the Title II PVOs in program design, integration with other activities, and M&E systems. FANTA's assistance focused on ensuring nutrition and food security impact of interventions and linking M&E systems to program objectives. FANTA continues to provide assistance to PVOs to strengthen food security and nutrition programming.

1.3.3. India

India has the largest program (valued at approximately \$110 million in FY 2001) in the Title II development portfolio. The program is implemented by CARE and CRS, and the majority of resources support maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) interventions. CARE's Integrated Nutrition and Health Project reaches approximately 7 million women and children in seven states. In addition to a health and nutrition program, CRS's Title II food security program includes agriculture, natural resources management, food for education, and other humanitarian assistance activities. Both PVOs completed final evaluations in FY 2001 and were approved for new five-year Title II programs that begin in FY 2002.

During Project Year Three, FANTA continued to support USAID/New Delhi in developing strategies to enhance the child survival impact of programs and in strengthening M&E and reporting practices.

Project Year Three: In-Country Technical Support Activities

Child Survival Strategy: FANTA produced and distributed a report on enhancing the child survival impact of Title II programs in India. The report is based on an in-country assessment that FANTA participated in with USAID, PVOs, and another project during Project Year Two. The report recommends ways to improve the Title II programs' impact on child survival, with a focus on community-based interventions to address immunization, vitamin A coverage, neonatal mortality, and infant feeding practices. The report was distributed to USAID and PVOs to inform the design and implementation of program components.

Results Framework: FANTA reviewed USAID/New Delhi's results framework for the Mission's child survival and nutrition activities. FANTA offered recommendations to improve the results framework, such as addition of indicators measuring behavior change in critical areas and stronger linkages between objectives and indicators.

Monitoring and Evaluation: FANTA provided technical input to the SOW for the final evaluation of CARE's Title II program. In developing the monitoring and evaluation system for the education component of its new program, CRS used information FANTA provided from the draft *Food for Education Indicator Guide* (see Section 3.2.3). CRS adopted all of its impact-level indicators for this component from the guide. This is expected to improve M&E for the program's food for education activities, which provide food to over 300,000 children annually.

Program Design: FANTA conducted technical reviews of the new Title II programs proposed by CARE and CRS and participated in Washington-based review meetings with USAID/Washington, the Mission, and PVOs. FANTA's input and recommendations focused on program design issues to strengthen nutritional impact and improvements in the monitoring and evaluation plan.

1.3.4. Guatemala

Guatemala has one of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a 50% stunting rate nationally. (Save the Children's Title II baseline survey in 2000 reported stunting rates of 75% in certain areas.) Guatemala's Title II programs, valued at approximately \$17.3 million in FY 2001, are designed to assist USAID/Guatemala City in achieving its strategic objectives of increased rural household income and improved food security. The Title II programs consist of a range of food security and nutrition activities, including agriculture, microenterprise, water and sanitation, and MCHN interventions. The implementing PVOs are CARE, CRS, Save the Children, and Share de Guatemala.

FANTA provides technical assistance to USAID/Guatemala City to help strengthen the nutrition and food security impact of these programs. During Project Year Three, FANTA helped to integrate better practices for family health and nutrition and behavior change communication into MCHN programs. FANTA also collaborated with the Mission and PVOs to develop improved M&E systems to measure and report program progress.

Project Year Three: In-Country Technical Support Activities

Trials for Improved Practices: FANTA assisted Title II PVOs and other stakeholders to plan a series of trials for improved practices (TIPs) to identify key feeding practices needed to improve the nutritional status of children 6-24 months old. Out of the trials emerged eight recommended practices for improved childcare and feeding. These practices will be promoted in the Guatemalan government's national food guide for children under two years of age. Results and recommendations from the TIPs were also incorporated into a national behavior change strategy, which FANTA and PVOs helped to formulate. With FANTA's facilitation, PVOs also identified other areas in which to conduct similar trials, such as sanitation, diarrhea management, and maternal nutrition. As follow-up to this work, PVOs participated in a TIPs training and collected field data on improved infant and child feeding practices. FANTA assisted in the data analysis.

IMCI Strategy: FANTA provided input into an Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) strategy that was developed to guide policies and programming, including Title II activities. The strategy was developed in response to the need expressed by the government, PVOs, and other stakeholders for integration of improved child health and nutrition interventions into programs. In helping to develop this strategy, FANTA worked in coordination with other Mission projects such as University Research Corporation's Calidad en Salud (Quality of Health) and JHPIEGO's Maternal and Neonatal Health Project. Laying the groundwork for future national strategies and programs in child health and feeding, the strategy includes use of behavior change communication (BCC) methods for the management of childhood illness and promotion of better feeding practices.

M&E: At the request of the Mission, FANTA provided technical assistance to the Title II PVOs in indicator selection and results reporting for programs' nutritional components. FANTA helped the PVOs to identify nutritional indicators for results reporting, plan how to measure these indicators, and develop mechanisms to ensure uniformity across the four Title II programs. Subsequently, FANTA provided technical assistance to the PVOs in the development of their M&E systems for health and nutrition components. FANTA also assisted one PVO (SHARE) to design its baseline survey and another, Save the Children, to review baseline survey results on MCHN behavior change. FANTA's input contributed to the development of more refined and uniform M&E systems that enable more effective tracking and reporting of program results.

BCC Training: FANTA organized a workshop for Title II PVOs on behavior change strategies. During the workshop, FANTA provided input on better practices and M&E, and PVOs identified priority activity areas to focus on to improve the impact of MCHN programs.

Proposal Guidance: FANTA provided reviews of Title II PVO program proposals with a focus on the design of MCHN components, results frameworks, and M&E systems. In addition to formal reviews, FANTA also provided recommendations on draft proposals in response to PVO requests and assisted in designing health and nutrition program components.

Priority Status Ending: Due to the rapid increase in acute malnutrition in Guatemala, the Mission has decided to focus its scarce resources on measures to alleviate acute malnutrition. As a result, it can no longer maintain its relationship as a priority country with FANTA. Therefore, FANTA will not be continuing its activities to strengthen the BCC components of MCHN programs or its field level support to Title II PVOs in Guatemala.

1.3.5. Haiti

USAID/Port-au-Prince's Enhancing Food Security (EFS) Program completed its second cycle in FY 2001 and is entering a new cycle for FY 2002-2006. Activities under this program have consisted of integrated development interventions implemented by CARE and CRS (and ADRA through FY 2000) and will expand to include SCF and WVI in FY 2002. These PVOs operate Title II programs, valued at approximately \$27.6 million in FY 2001, in water and sanitation, maternal and child health and nutrition, food for education, microcredit, infrastructure development, and other child feeding/humanitarian assistance.

Since FY 1999 FANTA has been providing technical assistance to USAID/Port-au-Prince to help strengthen food security and nutrition programming. From its initial reviews of food aid programs, FANTA's support of the Mission's food security portfolio has expanded to include the following activities in Project Year Three: support of program evaluations, translation of evaluation results into improved interventions, studies and operations research, field reviews, review of proposals and program systems, and enhancement and streamlining of M&E systems.

With the end of the EFS-II program, it is expected that FANTA will remain a key source of technical assistance as the Mission and its partners design and implement EFS-III for FY 2002-2006. The EFS-III program will build upon advances made under the earlier programs and key recommendations FANTA has provided, such as a standardization of PVO and Mission reporting indicators. This package of technical assistance and tool development characterizes FANTA's approach working in the priority countries.

Project Year Three: In-Country Technical Support Activities

Program Final Evaluation: FANTA had provided technical input to the preparation and execution of the final evaluation of the Mission's EFS-II program. FANTA also played a key role in helping the Mission and PVOs interpret the results of the evaluation through a workshop and through subsequent field visits and communications. Evaluation results enabled greater understanding by these stakeholders of the food security impact of the food aid program, under what conditions and in what form food aid is most effective, and key lessons about program implementation. FANTA also assisted the Mission and PVOs to use the results of the evaluation in redesigning their food security strategy and planning future programs. In a correspondence to USAID/Washington, the Mission stated that as a result of this process, "the Mission and its partners have identified a number of areas that will be given attention...The Mission and its partners greatly appreciate the valuable technical assistance provided by the FANTA project." The lessons learned and the uses made of this evaluation can serve as a model for future portfolio evaluations in Haiti and elsewhere.

Program Design and Review: Through field reviews, proposal reviews, and stakeholder meetings, FANTA provided guidance to CARE, CRS, SCF, and WVI in the design of the four new Title II food aid programs that begin in FY 2002. These proposals integrated key recommendations from the final evaluation that FANTA supported. Recommendations led to three critical improvements in program design: 1) food for education programs that include non-food educational improvements will take the place of stand-alone school feeding programs; 2) preventive interventions targeting those population groups most at risk for malnutrition, especially children under two, will be added to MCHN programs, in addition to recuperative interventions for malnourished children; and 3) guidelines for therapeutic feeding for kwashiorkor cases will be developed and supported by the Mission.

M&E: FANTA worked intensively with the Mission and the Title II PVOs to standardize performance indicators across all programs and ensure compatibility between PVO indicators and the Mission's own reporting indicators. This standardization will enable improved reporting on the part of the Mission and improved integration and comparison of program results.

Indicator standardization is a process in which several Missions are engaged, and the strong experience in Haiti can serve as a model from which other Missions can learn.

Study on Approaches to Malnutrition: The Mission's final evaluation of the EFS-II program concluded that the results of the MCHN recuperative approach, which involves therapeutic feeding of malnourished children, were disappointing. The evaluation recommended using a preventive approach, in which all children under two years of age are targeted for supplemental feeding. The current approach targets only malnourished children under five years of age for supplementary feeding. In order to further inform the implementation of the Haiti programs and to better understand the relative effectiveness of the two approaches, FANTA has planned a study to be conducted in Haiti that compares the impact and cost-effectiveness of the two approaches. The results of this study are likely to benefit programs outside of Haiti as the issue of targeting in MCHN programs is relevant to programs in many countries (see Section 3.8). During Project Year Three, the outline and design of the study were agreed to, proposals from FANTA's main subcontractors were elicited, and external technical experts identified for the review of the proposals. The study will commence in Project Year Four.

Vitamin A Deficiency Study: FANTA supported the preparation of an empirical study to determine levels of vitamin A deficiency among lactating women in urban Port-au-Prince. The study was completed and the report issued during Project Year Three. In addition to identifying levels of vitamin A deficiency (previously unknown in Haiti), the study results also helped to establish cutoff values for dark-adaptation thresholds in the assessment of vitamin A deficiency. Findings from this study enable USAID and its partners to plan improved interventions for reduction of vitamin A deficiency among lactating women. (See Section 3.2.7.a for more information.)

PROFILES Workshop: The policy dialogue using PROFILES proposed to occur during this year was not held because of shifting needs for the Mission and political changes in Haiti. It was concluded that the Mission will wait for the new Health Cabinet to be fully in control before engaging the government in a policy dialogue. The option of undertaking a policy exercise will be examined again in Project Year Four.

1.3.6. Honduras

In FY 2001, CARE/Honduras began implementation of a follow-on Title II program (valued at approximately \$5.6 million in FY 2001) that focused on expanding coverage of its integrated activities in agricultural productivity, health and nutrition, rural infrastructure development, and local government strengthening. With funding from USAID/Tegucigalpa, FANTA has been providing technical assistance to CARE/Honduras' food security program since FY 1999 in program design and monitoring and evaluation. The Mission allocated field support funds to FANTA in FY 2001 to support the final evaluation of the earlier program and the baseline survey for the follow-on program.

The CARE/Honduras Title II program uses the qualitative and quantitative information generated by its M&E system to continually modify and improve program design, implementation, and evaluation. FANTA's work with CARE has resulted in promising practices

in evaluation design to maximize possible attribution of food security impacts to program interventions in the context of PVO operational constraints. CARE has adopted programming recommendations to shift the focus of its MCHN program to prevention of malnutrition in all children under two years instead of targeting only malnourished children under five years, and to strengthen its focus on women's health and nutrition issues.

Project Year Three: In-Country Technical Support Activities

Baseline Survey and Final Evaluation: FANTA staff provided recommendations to CARE/Honduras on sample size requirements for the final evaluation of the completed Title II program and the baseline survey for the new program. FANTA recommended keeping the number of households per cluster constant to maintain the design effect and to implement the survey as simply as possible. The sample weights CARE will need to use when analyzing the data from the total sample were also provided. FANTA provided technical assistance to CARE and ADAI, a local data collection firm, in survey and questionnaire design, data entry, and basic analysis for the evaluation and baseline survey. FANTA provided on-site technical assistance to CARE/Honduras in the analysis of final evaluation results for its FY 1996-2000 Title II Development Activity Proposal (DAP) and in writing the final evaluation report. FANTA conducted the work with a consultant hired by CARE/Honduras and ADAI.

1.3.7. Nicaragua

During Project Year Three, FANTA posted a Food Security Specialist in Nicaragua to assist the Mission with Hurricane Mitch relief and rehabilitation programs and the post-emergency transition period. As a result of Hurricane Mitch, food aid programs in Nicaragua have increased in size and complexity. During FY 2001, the Title II non-emergency development portfolio was valued at \$4.7 million. FANTA's Food Security Specialist helped ensure that food programs were not merely "food handouts" but rather combined hurricane relief efforts with development-oriented interventions. A basic function of the Food Security Specialist is to provide technical assistance and guidance to assure that activities are integrated into the Mission's Special Objectives and that the implementing entities have the technical ability and orientation to manage immediate impact activities and to design and implement longer-term development initiatives.

Project Year 3: In-Country Technical Support Activities

Enhancement of Mission and PVO Programming Capacity: FANTA's Nicaragua Food Security Specialist helped strengthen the Mission's food aid program management capacity by training new Mission staff in the management of Title II programs and by assisting with field visits to verify and resolve implementation problems. The Nicaragua Food Security Specialist also worked closely with Title II PVOs on the design of their new program proposals. These efforts contributed to the approval of four new five-year Title II food security programs in Nicaragua during the year. In response to a severe drought that Nicaragua suffered during Project Year Three, FANTA's Nicaragua Food Security Specialist worked with the U.S. Government Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to assess drought-related food security problems and worked with PVOs to design and implement measures to mitigate the impact of the drought.

Field Visits: With representatives from the Office of Food For Peace in Washington and the Latin America Bureau, FANTA Washington-based staff visited three current Title II programs—ADRA, Population Council International, and Save the Children Fund—and one proposed program, Catholic Relief Services. The visit helped clarify FFP/Washington’s position to USAID/Managua on a range of issues, including the targeting of children under two or three years of age in MCHN activities. For FFP/Washington, the visit highlighted the need and appropriateness of Title II development programming in the Latin American region. FANTA also participated in field reviews of draft Title II proposals.

<i>IR 2: USAID and its counterparts establish improved, integrated nutrition and food security-related strategies and policies.</i>
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Under IR2, FANTA seeks to strengthen the relationship between the Agency's health and nutrition, agriculture, and food security-related programs in order to maximize the nutritional impact of these programs on target populations, especially young children and women.

2. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 2

2.1. In Washington

2.1.1. Define and implement strategies for improving women's nutrition

A number of USAID projects and partners carry out activities to improve women's nutritional status. FANTA is taking the lead to coordinate these efforts by encouraging increased collaboration and bringing promising practices and program options to the widest possible audience. Efforts are focused on two complementary approaches to improve women's nutrition (WN): advocacy and program strengthening. FANTA's efforts to improve advocacy for WN concentrate on the development of new data-based models that provide evidence of the benefits of WN interventions. These can be presented to stakeholders such as USAID, its Missions, and national-level policy makers to generate support for women's nutrition efforts. Program strengthening is done through a number of activities that provide information and technical assistance on better practices to PVOs and other partners. During Project Year Three, FANTA's WN activities involved both approaches.

USAID Retreat on Maternal Health and Nutrition: FANTA participated in the G/PHN retreat on Strategic Support Objective 2, "Increased use of key maternal health and nutrition interventions." Approximately 80 participants from USAID and 30 CA representatives attended the two-day event. The retreat included several presentations and discussions on maternal health and nutrition that highlighted themes reflecting FANTA's perspective on WN. The event served to help FANTA determine how its work with WN can best support G/PHN's efforts and priorities.

Information and Advocacy Tools: In coordination with LINKAGES and SARA, FANTA began to develop applications of the PROFILES data modeling tool for women's nutrition. The tools will statistically model nutritional determinants of maternal mortality and disability and their costs and consequences. Following a literature review, FANTA developed an outline of suggested models. Based on this work, FANTA plans to develop PROFILES models relating anemia to productivity and to mortality, relating night-blindness to mortality, and identifying the determinants of chronic disease risk, including effects of fetal malnutrition. Such models serve as effective tools to advocate to governments and donors the need for increased efforts to address priority areas of women's nutrition.

FANTA also examined the REDUCE modeling tool and its potential applications to women's nutrition. REDUCE is an advocacy model that helps stimulate policy dialogue and strategic planning on maternal health and safe motherhood. The PROFILES models under development will be available for use both with REDUCE and as stand-alone models.

Women's Nutrition Indicators: FANTA provided technical input to the development of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of women's nutrition outcomes. FANTA organized and hosted a working group meeting with the MEASURE II Evaluation Project and a number of WN stakeholders to prepare the WN section of the *Compendium of Indicators for Evaluating Reproductive Health Programs*. Throughout Project Year Three, FANTA collaborated closely with MEASURE II to provide feedback and technical guidance on revisions to the section, which is expected to be completed in Project Year Four.

Close involvement with this document provided FANTA with a key opportunity to discuss and offer input on: 1) the most important indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of interventions in women's nutrition; 2) limitations of the selected indicators; and 3) methodological challenges to evaluating interventions. The refinement and strengthening of WN indicators enables improved tracking and reporting of progress in addressing WN and thereby also leads to improved WN programming practices.

Technical Input to West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting: FANTA organized the technical update session on "Maternal and Adolescent Nutrition" for the Sixth Annual West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting (ANFPM) that took place in Accra, Ghana. The meeting's 70 participants included the nutrition heads of the 16 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries and representatives from observer countries, NGOs, USAID, donors (including the World Bank), and the private sector.

In addition to providing technical guidance on the development of presentations and sponsoring health specialists from different African countries to attend, FANTA compiled technical information packets with relevant nutrition and health materials in French and English and sent them to all of the meeting participants. This packet included a technical update brief produced by FANTA on the following key topics: Women's Nutrition: A Lifecycle Approach; The Nutritional Needs and Status of Adolescents, Women's Nutrition During Pregnancy and Lactation; Overcoming Barriers to Effectiveness in Maternal Anemia Interventions; Malaria in Pregnancy: Developing Guidelines is Not Enough; and Nutritional Care and Support for Women Living with HIV/AIDS in West Africa. The meeting resulted in agreement on an extensive series of priority actions such as adoption of national policies, establishment of an information databank, and integration of women's nutrition components into health services.

Coordination and Information Exchange: FANTA coordinated with several projects, PVOs, and other stakeholders to exchange information and explore possible collaborations in WN. For example, as a result of FANTA's meetings with the JHPIEGO Maternal and Neonatal Health Project, the latter supported a presenter at the ANFPM in Ghana and agreed to participate in a FANTA TAG meeting, in the Women's Nutrition Roundtable FANTA is organizing for the first quarter of Project Year Four, and in development of a Women's Nutrition and Food Security Package. At a TAG meeting, FANTA presented an overview of current issues in WN and introduced FANTA's proposed approach and activities to PVO members, who provided feedback and suggestions. These meetings represent the groundwork for development of a Women's Nutrition and Food Security Package that will provide guidance on program options

for the improvement of women's nutrition and food security. Development of the package will begin in Project Year Four, and it will be extended to Project Year Five.

Behavior Change and MCHN programs: FANTA continued to work with PVOs to strengthen programs' behavior change components aimed at improving the nutritional status of women and children. For example, FANTA provided assistance in Guatemala in this area. However, because the Guatemala Mission's funding has been reprioritized, this activity will not proceed as originally planned. (See Section 1.3.4 for more information.)

2.1.2. Provide technical support to G/PHN and USAID initiatives

FANTA provided technical support to G/PHN to strengthen the integration of nutrition into USAID programming. During Project Year Three, this included the following main areas:

- Strengthening efforts to address women's nutrition through development of advocacy tools and promising program options. (See Section 2.1.1 for more information.)
- Guidelines and technical support for integration of nutritional care and support into HIV/AIDS programming and policies. (See Section 3.6 for more information.)
- Technical guidance for improved targeting practices in food-based MCHN programs, involving a shift from targeting malnourished children under age five to targeting all children under age two in areas with high prevalence of malnutrition. (See Section 3.8 for more information.)
- Support to PVC to strengthen nutrition interventions in child survival programs and to facilitate increased collaboration between child survival and Title II programming. (See Section 1.1.2.a for more information.)
- Technical assistance to strengthen nutritional impacts of agriculture interventions. (See Section 3.4 for more information.)
- Guidance on the use of non-fat dry milk and associated blended products in nutrition programs. (See Section 1.1.1.a for more information.)
- Technical assistance to strengthen the nutritional impact and results reporting of emergency response activities. (See Section 1.2 for more information.)

FANTA provided technical inputs to the following on-going USAID initiatives:

- Technical support to the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI) to strengthen local capacity in emergency food aid and nutritional responses to HIV/AIDS. (See Section 2.2.2 for more information.)

- Technical assistance to strengthen M&E systems and capacities of HIV/AIDS food assistance programs operating under the Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic (LIFE) Initiative. (See Section 3.6 for more information.)
- Proposal reviews and technical input to strengthen M&E of pilot programs under the Global Food for Education Initiative. (See Sections 1.1.1.b and 3.2.3 for more information.)
- Preparation for development of programming guides on the use of Title II commodities to address vitamin A deficiency in support of the Vitamin A (VITA) Initiative. (See Section 3.2.7 for more information.)

2.1.3. Improve the food security framework – Food Aid and Food Security Assessment (FAFSA)

During Project Year Three, FANTA conducted an assessment of the extent to which Title II development programs have succeeded in achieving and reporting on the food security goals laid out in the Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper (FAFSPP). The FAFSPP, issued in 1995 by USAID, defines the general purposes and use of Title II non-emergency (development) food aid resources in developing countries. The policy paper identifies achievement of food security as the primary objective of Title II resources and lays out sectors through which programs contribute to enhanced food security. Since its approval, the policy has served as the framework for approval of all Title II development program activities.

Five years into the implementation of the FAFSPP, USAID requested FANTA to conduct the Food Aid and Food Security Assessment (FAFSA) to examine the levels of achievement attained and to explore the factors that have influenced outcomes. In addition to characterizing successes and failures in Title II development program activities, the FAFSA also identifies promising practices and provides recommendations for future directions of the program. The results of the assessment are expected to serve as guidance to USAID to inform future programming and to provide technical feedback to PVOs to help strengthen program design, implementation, and monitoring.

During Project Year Three, the FAFSA team reviewed documents, interviewed stakeholders, visited Title II programs in four countries, and produced the first draft of the report. The assessment used a consultative process involving five consultative groups comprised of a range of key food aid stakeholders and experts, including FFP and PVO partners.

The document review included results reports, evaluations, other program documents, USAID policy documents, program assessments, and background literature on food aid and food security. To gain additional information and better understand the perspectives of different stakeholders, the assessment team conducted interviews with USAID and PVO representatives who are directly or indirectly involved with Title II development program activities. During field visits to Bolivia, Mozambique, Ghana, and Benin, the assessment team observed on-site program activities, conducted interviews with stakeholders, and reviewed program-related documents.

At the end of Project Year Three, the draft report was being reviewed by advisory groups comprised of USAID, PVOs, and external food security experts. A final report will be produced during Project Year Four.

2.1.4. Review health and nutrition in emergencies

In order to improve the design and impact of emergency response activities, there is a need for improved knowledge about the nutritional needs people face in emergency situations and about how to effectively address these needs. FANTA provides technical support to USAID to generate increased knowledge on this subject and to inform improved strategies. During Project Year Three, FANTA addressed three key areas involving health and nutrition in emergencies: food aid targeting, data collection and results reporting for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency food aid management.

Food Aid Targeting Assessment: During Project Year Three, FANTA issued the final report of an assessment of applications to food aid targeting of the Household Food Economy (HFE) methodology developed by Save the Children-UK. The report concluded that HFE tools can contribute significantly to assessing food security and monitoring food aid in displaced persons camps, but that additional tools and further analysis are needed. (See Section 1.2.2.b. for more information.)

RNIS Reports: FANTA collaborated with UN agencies (ACC/SCN and WHO) to expand results reporting of emergency relief activities through RNIS reports. Production of these reports and analysis of data on crude mortality rates and nutritional status have contributed to a broadened capacity to report on the health and nutrition results of USAID's humanitarian relief interventions. (See Section 1.2.1.c. for more information.)

Crude Mortality Rate Use: FANTA worked with the RNIS and the WHO Department of Emergency and Humanitarian Action to coordinate compilation and analysis of nutritional status and crude mortality rate data of refugees and displaced populations. This information is used to monitor and report the results of USAID's humanitarian assistance. During Project Year Three, data were collected and analyzed from sites in 12 countries. These efforts resulted in the adoption of crude mortality rate by USAID and the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration as one of their humanitarian response performance indicators. UN agencies dealing with emergency reporting (UN High Commission for Refugees, WFP, and WHO) are also interested in using these indicators.

Emergency Food Aid Managers Checklist: FANTA completed a draft checklist to assist emergency food aid managers in the design and implementation of effective food distributions. The checklist provides key information to help food aid managers organize operations and offers references to a range of existing resource materials.

Vitamin A Guidance: FANTA began planning two guides to be developed with Helen Keller International: a programming guide for interventions to address vitamin A deficiency, with emphasis on the use of Title II commodities, and a guide for improved utilization of micronutrients (especially vitamin A) through Title II commodities. The negotiation for this

work resulted in a decision to produce a single document that combines the objectives of both guides and that will be completed in Project Year Four. (See Section 3.2.7.a for more information.)

2.2. With Field Missions

2.2.1. Support food security strategy development

FANTA provided technical assistance to USAID Missions in the development and enhancement of Mission strategies for food security and integration of resources (including development assistance and Title II resources) in Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Haiti. FANTA provided technical support and input to the design and review of Mission Strategic Plans and Performance Reporting Plans in Ethiopia and India. (See Section 1.3 for more information.)

2.2.2. Support the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative

With support from REDSO/ESA, FANTA works in partnership with regional institutions and coalitions to strengthen nutrition and food security strategies, programming, and policies in the Greater Horn region. FANTA's technical assistance supports REDSO/ESA's SO7: "Enhanced Regional Capacity to Improve Health Systems." During Project Year Three, FANTA's technical support focused on nutritional responses to HIV/AIDS and on management of food aid in emergency situations.

Nutrition Coalitions: FANTA identified areas for potential technical assistance to Nutrition Coalitions in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. These Coalitions were established with support from REDSO/ESA to advance and enhance nutrition programming and policies in their countries. They are comprised of individuals representing the government, NGOs, and private sector groups. FANTA's support to the Coalitions is aimed at enhancing their capacity to serve key technical functions, primarily in the area of nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Technical assistance to the Coalitions will begin in Project Year Four. During Project Year Three, FANTA took the following steps to enable realization of this technical assistance:

- Prepared and disseminated a concept paper detailing areas of possible technical support to the Coalitions.
- Participated in a partners meeting with REDSO/ESA and its regional partners, and participated in meetings with the Coalitions.
- Retained a consultant based in the region to facilitate the Coalitions in the process of identifying, planning, and proposing activities to be supported by FANTA.
- Reviewed and provided comments on a draft proposal prepared by a Coalition.
- Participated (through the regional consultant) in the Coalitions' strategic planning meetings.

HIV/AIDS Nutritional Care and Support Guidelines: In collaboration with REDSO/ESA and the Regional Center for Quality of Health Care, a regional partner of REDSO/ESA, FANTA prepared a workshop on the development of national guidelines for nutritional care and support of people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. During Project Year Three, FANTA provided technical input to the development of the workshop's objectives, content, and planned follow-up

activities. The workshop, to be held in November, 2001, responds to the identified need for enhanced regional capacity to prepare, disseminate, and apply nutritional care guidelines for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

FANTA's *HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care and Support* provides generic guidance on the subject, and the workshop serves as the next step by enabling adaptation of the guide to national contexts. As part of follow-up to the workshop, FANTA will provide technical assistance to the development of a handbook on national guideline development and may provide direct technical assistance to country teams in the guideline development process. Nutrition is increasingly recognized as a critical area of HIV/AIDS response in the region and globally. The process that FANTA is supporting with REDSO/ESA and its partners enables technically strong and locally appropriate nutritional care and support guidance to be developed for programs, policies, and care institutions.

Emergency Food Aid Targeting Assessment: FANTA prepared a report on an assessment conducted in the region of the Household Food Economy methodology's applications to food aid targeting in emergency situations. The assessment and report responded to the need identified by REDSO/ESA for improved targeting practices in emergency situations in the region. Information and recommendations in the report enable expanded use of this promising practice to improve food aid in complex emergencies. (See Section 1.2.2.b. for more information.)

Emergency Food Aid Managers Checklist: FANTA completed a draft checklist to assist emergency food aid managers to design and implement effective food distributions. The document is titled *Checklist for Food Aid Managers Setting Up Emergency Food Distributions with References to Useful Resource Materials*. This work, supported by REDSO/ESA, contributes to GHAI Priority Area III: Improved Maternal and Child Nutritional Status in Emergency and Refugee Situations. (See Section 1.2.2.b for more information.)

Review of Emergency Food Aid Management Resources: FANTA began an assessment of technical assistance needs for emergency food aid managers in the region. Based on a review of existing resource materials, FANTA prepared a descriptive bibliography of key documents. FANTA elicited input from a range of emergency stakeholders (PVOs, donors, researchers, CAs, and others) regarding perceived needs. FANTA discussed with REDSO/ESA next steps for technical assistance in this area, which are expected to be taken in Project Year Four.

2.3. With Cooperating Sponsors

2.3.1. Develop Credit with Education program advocacy document and monitoring and evaluation measurement guide

Throughout Project Year Three, FANTA collaborated with the subcontractor Freedom from Hunger (FFH), an innovative microfinance organization, to investigate the potential for integrating the Credit with Education (CWE) programming concept into Title II development programs. The CWE approach combines the incentive of loan provision for women with basic health and nutrition training. Among the key messages targeted to the female borrowers are breastfeeding, infant and child feeding, diarrhea management, HIV/AIDS, and business practices.

During Project Year Three, FANTA and FFH completed a report on the approach and its application to Title II programs and continued to lay the groundwork to strengthen CWE programming and improve measurement and monitoring of program impact. FANTA and FFH began the development of a series of key monitoring and evaluation tools based on fieldwork and ongoing M&E efforts in countries using CWE approaches, such as Uganda and Bolivia.

Report on CWE Applications: FANTA published a report produced by FFH, *The Case for Credit with Education: A Promising Title II Microfinance Strategy*, which provides an overview of CWE, presents research findings from Ghana and Bolivia, and discusses potential applications of the approach to Title II programs. The document, available on FANTA's website, lays the basis for further development and application of CWE.

Outreach through Technical Advisory Group: FFH presented to FANTA's TAG an overview of CWE and its applicability to Title II programs. The presentation highlighted the CWE approach, its potential impact on health and nutrition, and data from a program in Madagascar. The Madagascar example demonstrated how business objectives of a financial service organization could be blended with high quality health and nutrition education. FFH presented the case that CWE can be successfully coordinated with Title II MCHN activities when due consideration is given to: 1) selection of implementing agencies; 2) efficient staff training, management, and coordination; 3) balancing business and social service objectives; 4) obtaining external technical support; and 5) complementing Title II resources with private funds. FANTA welcomes such new partners and approaches that develop innovative methods to increase incomes and self-sufficiency along with health and nutrition outcomes.

Tool for Assessment of Education Quality: FANTA supported FFH to develop, test, and document a supervisory approach used to assess the quality of group-based education provided through CWE. This method is based on direct observation using a checklist to assess facilitation skills of field agents and the accuracy and appropriateness with which they convey technical information. The tools and guidelines produced under this activity will provide CWE supervisors a methodology for "auditing" field agent performance and providing feedback for improvement. The study for developing this method was carried out in Uganda in coordination with the PVO, FOCCAS. In order to include in the document experiences from other CWE programs, such as those in Bolivia, the activity will continue into Project Year Four and the final report will be produced in January 2002.

Qualitative Monitoring Approaches: FANTA has been supporting FFH to work with FOCCAS in Uganda to develop an approach for the use of qualitative monitoring methods by CWE practitioners. The purpose of these qualitative methods (such as client case studies and participatory group assessments) is to provide practitioners with client feedback and a deeper understanding of program dynamics and impacts. Such feedback and understanding are essential for program strengthening and improvement. The final product will include the specific qualitative tools as well as a guide with examples of how to build staff capacity to implement tools, how to compile qualitative results, and how the findings in FOCCAS were used to strengthen programming. The design and pilot tests in the field were completed during Project

Year Three, and the final documentation of lessons learned will be completed during Project Year Four.

Applications of Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) to Program Monitoring: FANTA provided support to FFH in preparing and convening a two-day consultative workshop with 11 participants representing expertise in LQAS and CWE to explore the potential applications of LQAS to CWE. Among the topics discussed was the use of LQAS to measure CWE service quality, health and nutrition knowledge levels and practices, clients' business management, household food access, and food security. A workshop paper on uses of the LQAS methodology for CWE was prepared and will be finalized during Project Year Four. The target audience for this paper is CWE practitioners and other stakeholders. This product will form the basis for a future proposal by FFH to FANTA to develop a management information system incorporating LQAS for selected CWE programs.

2.4. With Host Country Governments

FANTA's strategy to influence host country government policy and programming builds on its relationship with USAID Field Missions. FANTA works to develop on-going and active involvement and support from USAID in-country staff to facilitate improvement of government nutrition and food security policies. During Project Year Three, FANTA's work with host country governments focused on Honduras and Ethiopia.

Honduras: FANTA's work with USAID/Tegucigalpa and CARE/Honduras led the Honduran government's Ministry of Health (MOH) to significantly revise and improve its approach to child health and nutrition activities. Based on FANTA's recommendations, CARE/Honduras redesigned the MCHN component of its Title II program to target all children under two in the project areas with supplementary feeding and services. This preventive approach replaced the earlier one of targeting only malnourished children under five. Because children under two are at the greatest risk of malnutrition, this age-based preventive approach has been increasingly accepted to be more effective than selectively targeting malnourished children. CARE works closely with the decentralized MOH Health Areas, and as a result of the strong collaboration between CARE and the MOH, the Government has also adopted this improved approach. The MOH revised the approach of its Integrated Basic Services and now universally targets children under two instead of selectively targeting malnourished children under five.

Ethiopia: FANTA worked with USAID/Addis Ababa and the Government of Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, regional health authorities, and others to help strengthen nutrition policy and strategies. FANTA has designed a strategy employing the PROFILES advocacy tool as part of a process to analyze and address the consequences of poor nutrition. The facts, analysis, and recommendations that emerged from this process have contributed to increased emphasis on nutrition in Mission and government policies. For example, the government's nutrition office has been reestablished, recommendations from FANTA's technical support have been used in regional government planning, and a Policy Gap Analysis is planned to assess what policy interventions will most effectively impact nutrition.

IR 3: Best practices and acceptable standards in nutrition and food security-related policy and programming adopted by USAID, Cooperating Sponsors, and other key stakeholders.

This third result is intended to assist G/PHN in fulfilling one of its primary functions of Global Leadership. FANTA focuses on promoting the use of promising practices in maternal and child health and nutrition. While IRs 1 and 2 target a defined set of stakeholders (i.e., USAID, PVOs, and host country governments), under IR 3, FANTA broadens the use of promising practices and acceptable standards in nutrition and food security programming. The primary approach is through research, analysis, documentation, and appropriate dissemination (including training and technical assistance) to a wide audience.

Through this result, FANTA supports priority research in programmatic and operational issues and expands the capacity of key stakeholder groups, such as PVOs, USAID Field Missions, and the World Food Program, to assess, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate effective food security and nutrition policies and programs.

3. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 3

During Project Year Three, the FANTA project produced a number of publications for a variety of stakeholders. These publications build on FANTA's earlier work with the Indicator guides, which have led to a new series on Promising Practices. All FANTA publications are available in both print and electronic formats, and most can be accessed at FANTA's website.

The technical foci of the Indicator and Promising Practices guides have been determined through a consultative process with FANTA's stakeholders. They address key nutrition and food security programmatic and policy priorities of USAID and reflect the priority action areas identified by FANTA's Technical Advisory Group. Table 3 lists deliverables that were completed during Project Year Three. Drafts of reports that are complete but have not reached final version are also included. Table 4 lists the range and quantity of information requests that FANTA received during this year.

Table 3. FANTA Deliverables

Title	Author(s)	Date	Section in Report	Status
Indicator Guides				
Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide	Bruce Cogill	Aug 01	3.2.1.	Final
Food for Education Indicator Guide	Gilles Bergeron Joy Miller Del Rosso	Sept 01	3.2.3.	Draft
Sampling Guide – in French	Robert Magnani	Aug 01	3.1.	Final
Sampling Guide – in Spanish	Robert Magnani	Sept 01	3.1.	Draft
Periodicals				
<i>African Journal of Food and Nutritional Sciences</i> (AJFNS), Issue One and Two	Ruth Oniang'o	March 01 July 01	3.10.	Final
<i>Food Forum</i> - Article on Child Feeding Indicators	Gayle Gibbons	Nov/Dec 00	3.10.	Final
<i>Food Forum</i> - Article on Credit with Education	Gayle Gibbons	Mar/Apr 01	3.10.	Final
<i>Food Forum</i> - Article on FANTA TA for Developing Emergency Ration Bar	Caroline Tanner	Jan/Feb 01	3.10.	Final
Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) Quarterly Reports (Nos. 32, 33, 34)	Brian Jones	Apr 01 Jul 01	1.2.1.c.	Final
Promising Practices Guides				
A Case for Credit With Education: A Promising Title II Microfinance Strategy	Christopher Dunford Vicki Denman	Mar 01	2.3.1.	Final
Data Pathways: A Guide to Monitoring Systems	Mary Arimond Gilles Bergeron Beth Dunford	Sept 01	3.2.6.	Draft
Evaluation Design Guide	Frank Riley	Sept 01	3.2.2.	Draft
Household Food Economy Interviews: How Well Do They Monitor Food Security and Food Aid Use in Camps of Persons Displaced by Protracted Emergencies?	Barbara Reed	Jan 01	1.2.2.b.	Final
Reports				
Assessing Care: Progress Towards the Measurement of Selected Childcare and Feeding Practices and Implications for Programs	Mary Arimond Marie Ruel	May 01	3.2.6.	Final
Assessment of Adult Under-Nutrition in Emergencies	Brian Jones	Apr 01	1.2.1.a.	Final

Assessment of the Vitamin A Status of Lactating Women by Dark Adaptation Testing in a Peri-Urban Area in Petion ville Commune, Haiti	June Pierre-Louis Nathan Congdon	Mar 01	3.2.7.a	Final
Checklist for Food Aid Managers Setting Up Emergency Food Distributions with References to Useful Resource Materials	Barbara Reed Marya Khan	Oct 00	1.2.2.b.	Draft
Considering the Applicability of Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) to Credit with Education	Barbara McKnelly Joeseeph Valadez Jeanette Treiber Robb Davis	Aug 01	2.3.1.	Draft
Cultural Perspectives for Understanding Food Security among the Mossi: A Background Paper on Food Security in Burkina Faso	Alison Goldberg Edward Frongillo, Jr.	Feb 01	3.5.1.b	Final
The Derivation of the Proposed Nutritional Composition of an Emergency Relief Food for Refugees and Displaced Persons	Michael Golden	Mar 01	1.2.1.a.	Final
Development and Results of a Questionnaire-Based Tool to Measure the Food Security of Production Units in Zondoma for Africare's Baseline Survey	Edward Frongillo, Jr. Suzanne Gervais Simeon Nanama Alison Goldberg	Mar 01	3.5.1.b.	Draft
Enhancing Child Survival Impact of PL480 Title II Program in India	Mellen Tanamly	May 00	1.3.3.	Draft
Food Aid and Food Security Assessment (FAFSA): A Review of the Title II Food Aid Program	Patricia Bonnard Patricia Haggerty Gilles Bergeron James Dempsey Anne Swindale	Sept 01	2.1.3.	Draft
Food Insecurity Measurement & Validation Study: A Proposal for Field Work In Bangladesh	Patrick Webb	Aug 01	3.5.1.b	Final
Food Security in Madagascar: A Situation Analysis Prepared for USAID Mission in Antananarivo	Mei Zegers Gilles Bergeron	Mar 01	1.3.2.	Final
Interview Guide for In-Depth Understanding of Food Security in Zondoma Province, Burkina Faso	Simeon Nanama Edward Frongillo, Jr.	Jan 01	3.5.1.b.	Draft
Kenya Drought Emergency Operation – Food Aid and Nutrition: Key Findings and Lessons Learned	Caroline Tanner	Aug 01	1.2.2.b.	Draft
Malnutrition & Child Mortality: Findings from Longitudinal & Cross-Sectional Analyses at Population Level	David Pelletier Edward Frongillo, Jr. Maike Rahn	Sept 01	3.7.	Final

A Multiple Method Approach to Studying Childcare in an Urban Environment: The Case of Accra, Ghana	Marie Ruel Margaret Armar-Klemesu Mary Arimond	Jan 01	3.5.2.b.	Final
A Positive Deviance Approach to Studying Child Feeding Practices and Care in Accra, Ghana	Margaret Armar-Klemesu Marie Ruel	Nov 00	3.5.2.b.	Final
Report on the Analysis of the In-Depth Qualitative Data: Revision of the Initial Food Security Measurement Tool	Simeon Nanama Edward Frongillo, Jr.	May 01	3.5.1.b.	Final
Report on Burundi's Therapeutic and Supplementary Feeding Programs	Yvonne Grellety	May 01	1.2.2.a.	Draft
Report on the Formulation of the Core Food Security Module & Experiences in its Implementation in Bangladesh	Patrick Webb Jennifer Coates Robert Houser	Jun 01	3.5.1.b.	Final
Report on an Investigation into Recurrent Epidemics of Pellagra in Kuito, Angola	Michael Golden Caroline Tanner	Sept 01	1.2.2.a.	Draft
Resources for Emergency Food Aid Managers	Tony Castleman	Apr 01	1.2.2.b.	Final
A Study of Emergency Relief Food for Refugees & Displaced Persons: A Background Paper	Caroline Tanner	Mar 01	1.2.1.a.	Final
Technical Brief				
Improving the Nutrition Impacts of Agriculture Interventions: Strategy and Policy Brief	Patricia Bonnard	Mar 01	3.4.	Final
Technical Guide				
HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care & Support – in English	Serena Rajabiun Bruce Cogill	Sept 01	3.6.	Draft
HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care & Support - in French	Serena Rajabiun Bruce Cogill	Sept 01	3.6.	Draft
Workshop Materials				
Community-Based Nutrition in Ethiopia – Report & Materials	Gilles Bergeron Caroline Tanner	Nov 00	3.9.	Final
Data Analysis Workshop for Title II Development Program Managers (Kenya) – Report & Materials	Julie Mobley Mona Mehta-Steffen	Nov 00	3.9.	Final
M&E Workshop for ADRA – Report & Materials	Tony Castleman	Aug 01	3.9.	Final
M&E Workshop for Africare – Report & Materials	Alice Willard	Mar 01	3.9.	Final
Nutrition Works (CSTS, FAM, CORE, FANTA) – Report & Materials	Bruce Cogill Paige Harrigan	Sept 01	3.9.	Final
West Africa Focal Points Meeting – Technical Update Booklet & Materials	Sandra Remancus	Sept 01	2.1.1.	Final

3.1. Revise existing Title II Indicator guides

Since the beginning of the project, FANTA has developed a number of guides on key technical issues related to food security and nutrition. Current guides include: *Agricultural Productivity Indicators Measurement Guide*, *Food Security Indicators and Framework For Use in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Food Aid Programs*, *Improving the Use of Food Rations in Title II Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programs*, *Infant and Child Feeding Indicators Measurement Guide*, *Measuring Household Food Consumption: A Technical Guide*, *Sampling Guide*, and *Water and Sanitation Indicators Measurement Guide*.

Assessments and feedback indicate that these guides are widely used by a range of stakeholders and that their use has resulted in enhanced capacity and improved practices. An external evaluation of one PVO's institutional strengthening activities identified FANTA publications as a key source of guidance, stating that "FANTA publications in particular have provided invaluable technical inputs to the food security staff's capacity building in food security." A PVO respondent to the FANTA stakeholder survey cited "superb assistance from FANTA in sharing multiple sets of its excellent documents, fast and prompt and thoughtful selection and delivery of the same."

During Project Year Three, FANTA translated one of its guides and revised a USAID guide.

Sampling Guide: This guide provides information on the sampling process for program surveys and is the most frequently requested FANTA document. In response to requests from PVOS, FANTA translated this guide into French and Spanish. The French version was completed this year and is available in print and on the website. The Spanish version is under review by a PVO in Honduras for final comments and will be completed by the second quarter of Project Year Four. Participants at the West Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop in September 2001 each received copies of this guide. Translation of the guide enables access to the information by a broader group of stakeholders, especially field-based program staff.

Commodity Reference Guide: FANTA assisted in the revision and updating of the *Commodity Reference Guide*. This guide is available at the USAID website and provides extensive information on ration design and commodity specifications for Title II development and emergency programs. (See Section 1.1.1.a for more information.)

3.2. Develop new Title II Indicator and Promising Practice publications

3.2.1. Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide

This guide provides information on anthropometric indicators and annual monitoring indicators for MCHN, child survival, and income-related Title II activities. The focus of the guide is on the collection and reporting of anthropometric information to improve program management and document progress towards the achievement of results. The guide also offers suggestions for improved monitoring and evaluation. Anthropometry plays a critical role in assessments and M&E practices for most nutrition programs, yet PVOs often face technical and logistical challenges to its accurate application. The guide serves as a programming tool to assist PVOs in improving the measurement of anthropometric indicators and the use of anthropometric

information. During Project Year Three, the guide was published, disseminated, and presented at a variety of workshops and forums for USAID and PVOs.

3.2.2. Evaluation Design Guide

The *Evaluation Design Guide* is intended to be a basic reference to explain key evaluation concepts and to enable programs to gain the basic knowledge needed to design their own evaluation systems. FANTA completed the first draft of the guide during Project Year Three and will revise it during Project Year Four. Revisions will focus on making the document clear and easily understood by PVO managers with limited theoretical knowledge of evaluation systems. The guide is expected to help programs assess and demonstrate the food security and nutrition impacts of their programs at the household and individual levels.

3.2.3. Food for Education (FFE) Indicator Guide

Food for Education programs, which use food as a resource to strengthen educational outcomes, have emerged in recent years as effective means to improve children's education and enhance food security. With Title II resources, USAID supports the implementation of ten FFE programs; in FY 2001, these programs provided food to over 1,175,000 children. In response to the assessed need for effective methods by which to monitor and evaluate the impact of such programs, FANTA developed a *Food for Education Indicator Guide* that identifies recommended indicators to measure educational outcomes in FFE programs. To facilitate effective use of the indicators by program personnel, for each indicator the guide provides definitions and information on calculation, interpretation, and data collection and use. By enabling adoption of more effective M&E practices in FFE programs, the guide is expected to improve results tracking and lead to improved program implementation.

The *FFE Indicator Guide* was developed through a consultative process with USAID, PVOs, the World Food Program, the World Bank, and other stakeholders. The guide will be published during the first quarter of Project Year Four, but its content has already contributed to the design of M&E systems in Title II programs and in the Global Food for Education Initiative. The World Food Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have also reviewed the guide for possible use in their food-assisted education programs.

3.2.4. Food for Education (FFE) Better Practices Guide

To complement the *FFE Indicator Guide*, FANTA is developing a *FFE Better Practices Guide* using the same process of collaboration with USAID and PVOs that was used to develop the *Indicator Guide*. The *Better Practices Guide* will identify and describe key tools, approaches, and practices that have proved effective in FFE implementation. The guide will provide illustrative examples and offer recommendations for program implementation. During Project Year Three, FANTA began the process of developing the guide through program and document reviews and discussion with key stakeholders. The guide will be prepared during Project Year Four.

3.2.5. Improving the Use of Food Rations in Title II Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programs

In Project Year Three, the draft guide *Improving the Use of Food Rations in Title II MCHN Programs* was used by several PVOs to strengthen interventions in food-assisted MCHN programs. For example, an external evaluation of one PVO's institutional strengthening activities stated that this document has "help[ed] in fine-tuning food aid/security programmatic concepts and thinking." In addition to individual program applications, FANTA used the document in a workshop in Ethiopia for PVOs and USAID on community nutrition interventions. Through stakeholder consultations and field visits, FANTA continued to document how PVOs use the guide and the results achieved, with special attention to the experience of Title II PVOs working in Sub-Saharan Africa. Based on this information, FANTA will revise the guide during Project Year Four to better meet the needs of programs.

3.2.6. Data Pathways: A Guide to Monitoring Systems

During Project Year Three, FANTA began development of this guide to help program managers design information systems for the collection and use of information relevant to donors, program managers, field agents, and beneficiaries. The guide covers basic concepts in monitoring and evaluation, reviews USAID's guidelines for PVO reporting obligations, and suggests options and issues for M&E system design. The guide contributes to a larger process FANTA has been engaging in to enable programs to make more effective use of monitoring information. Development of this guide has been a participatory process, involving integration of comments and perspectives from a range of stakeholders. While this has strengthened the document, it also has necessitated a lengthy production schedule. FANTA completed a draft of the document during the year, and has begun preparing a revised version. A final draft of the document will be produced during Project Year Four.

3.2.7. Incorporate vitamin A into food security programming

Improved vitamin A status is a major priority for USAID over the next five to ten years. Worldwide more than 100 million young children and many of their mothers are vitamin A deficient, increasing the severity of common illnesses and the risk of death by 25 to 30 percent. Title II blended food commodities contain vitamin A, and all refined vegetable oil distributed through Title II is fortified with vitamin A. FANTA has been requested by USAID and PVOs to provide more specific guidance for the programming of food resources to improve child and maternal micronutrient status.

3.2.7.a. A programming guide for vitamin A activities in community-based PVO programs

Better Practices Guide: During Project Year Three, FANTA worked with Helen Keller International to plan the development of a *Vitamin A Better Practices Programming Guide* and identified an outline for the guide. The target audience for the guide will be PVO program managers, especially those using Title II commodities in their development programs. The guide will identify best uses of Title II food commodities and other approaches to control vitamin A

deficiencies. Progress on the guide will continue in Project Year Four. The guide will cover the following main topics: assessment and situation analysis of vitamin A status; types of interventions; vitamin A requirements; causes of deficiency; approaches and guidelines to address vitamin A deficiency using local donated foods; micronutrient requirements by age and gender; micronutrient levels in Title II commodities; factors leading to micronutrient losses in commodities; and strategies to prevent micronutrient losses in commodities.

Vitamin A Deficiency Study in Haiti: During Project Year Three, FANTA supported an empirical study to determine levels of vitamin A deficiency among lactating women in urban Haiti. Due to the high requirements of vitamin A during pregnancy and breastfeeding, women are at high risk of vitamin A deficiency. In addition to identifying levels of vitamin A deficiency (previously unknown in Haiti), the study also helped establish cutoff values for dark-adaptation thresholds in the assessment of vitamin A deficiency. The study was completed and the report issued during Project Year Three. The methodology used in this study was shared with USAID partners in Haiti and presented at the International Vitamin A Consultative Group meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. Findings from the study enable improved program interventions for reduction of vitamin A deficiency among lactating women.

3.2.7.b. Improving the utilization (bioavailability) of micronutrients in Title II commodities

In Project Year Three, FANTA decided to merge this activity with the Better Practices Guide above (3.2.7.a) because the two are closely related.

3.3. Strengthening behavior change communication in maternal and child health and nutrition activities

During Project Year Three, FANTA's activities with MCHN behavior change communication focused on Guatemala. FANTA conducted a workshop for Title II PVOs in Guatemala on behavior change strategies for MCHN programs. The workshop resulted in identification of priority areas and key better practices on which to focus BCC efforts. FANTA supported the integration of BCC methods into a national IMCI strategy. FANTA assisted PVOs and other stakeholders in identification of key nutrition and health practices to be promoted with BCC methods. (See Section 1.3.4. for more information.)

3.4. Improving agriculture, consumption, and nutrition linkages

FANTA supports the strengthening of linkages between agriculture and nutrition sectors. The primary objectives of this work are to ensure integration between sectors and to strengthen the consumption and nutrition impacts of agricultural interventions. During Project Year Three, FANTA's work involved publication of a brief, technical assistance to USAID Missions, and technical input to conferences and follow-up activities.

Strategy and Policy Brief: FANTA finalized and disseminated a policy brief titled *Improving the Nutrition Impacts of Agricultural Interventions: Strategy and Policy Brief*. Aimed at USAID Mission staff and agricultural officers, the brief provides actionable recommendations to

maximize the consumption and nutrition impacts of agricultural interventions. The brief is also expected to help PVOs that are designing new agriculture programs to include nutrition components. The document uses a cross-sectoral approach to understanding program and policy options and emphasizes opportunities for strengthening the complementarity between agriculture, health and nutrition program areas. It is based on the findings of a more detailed background paper produced for USAID's Office of Sustainable Development/Agriculture Division within the Africa Bureau. The brief was distributed to the USAID Agricultural Officers meeting in Nairobi in November, 2000, where feedback and examples of applications were elicited.

Collaboration with Missions: Throughout Project Year Three, FANTA worked with the Africa Bureau Office of Sustainable Development to raise awareness, identify priority Missions, and provide technical support to implement the recommendations in the policy brief. During Project Year Three, FANTA worked with Missions in Mozambique and Ethiopia in this area.

- *Mozambique:* FANTA provided input to USAID/Maputo regarding options to improve nutritional outcomes of agricultural interventions. FANTA and the Mission explored recommendations from the *Strategy and Policy Brief* and referred to content from the workshop on agricultural policy, resource access, and nutrition that FANTA conducted in Addis Ababa. The Mission has disseminated the *Strategy and Policy Brief* to all PVOs in Mozambique that submit new proposals with nutrition components in their Title II agricultural interventions. In Project Year Four, FANTA will assist the Mission to prepare for a study to understand the determinants of the high prevalence of malnutrition in Mozambique, despite the country's improving economic performance. The study aims to identify the most appropriate nutrition components to incorporate into on-going food security activities.
- *Ethiopia:* FANTA participated in discussions with USAID/Addis Ababa about the integration of nutrition into agricultural projects and about a closer collaboration between the activities of PVOs and those of the Mission's Strategic Objective teams in these areas. The Mission's interest was enhanced following the two workshops FANTA conducted using PROFILES in Addis Ababa, and FANTA will continue to work with the Mission in this area during Project Year Four. (See Section 1.3.1 for more information.)

Conferences

- *International Food and Nutrition Conference:* FANTA participated in the International Food and Nutrition Conference at Tuskegee University. FANTA presented the *Strategy and Policy Brief* and contributed to the Food Security and Nutrition thematic group. FANTA assisted in developing an action plan emphasizing small-scale food processing and improved storage, research, and development of local foods, as well as greater recognition of micronutrient deficiencies. The thematic group also stressed the importance of government commitment to malnutrition reduction and suggested that countries adopt national, regional, and household food security strategies.

- *Partnership to Cut Hunger in Africa:* At the Partnership to Cut Hunger in Africa Conference, FANTA contributed to the Plan of Action and provided suggestions to strengthen linkages between agriculture, nutrition, and poverty alleviation and to help ensure measurable nutritional impacts of agricultural activities. FANTA continued to contribute input to the partnership's approach to these issues as follow-up to the conference.
- *Gender and Agriculture/Nutrition Linkages:* FANTA participated in an inter-agency stakeholder workshop hosted by the International Center for Research on Women and IFPRI to discuss mechanisms for strengthening linkages between agriculture, nutrition, and maternal health. As a result of the workshop, FANTA plans to produce a Technical Note in Project Year Four to draw out the linkages for program practitioners. The document will provide information on how to address women's nutritional needs through agricultural-based initiatives and how to incorporate women's nutrition into broader food security programs and projects.

3.5. Approaches to measuring household and individual access to and consumption of food

Access to and consumption of adequate and appropriate food by households and individuals are important components of food security. FANTA is carrying out a set of activities aimed at developing user-friendly, cost-effective approaches to measure changes in dietary quantity and quality and in feeding behaviors at the household and individual level. USAID and PVO stakeholders have identified this work as a high priority because measuring such changes are critical to assessments of the impact of food security interventions. During Project Year Three, FANTA undertook detailed indicator testing and field validation work in collaboration with FANTA subcontractors Cornell University, Tufts University, and IFPRI.

3.5.1. Measuring improved household access to food

3.5.1.a. Dietary diversity

FANTA is supporting a study by IFPRI to test dietary diversity indicators as measures of access to food (per capita expenditures) and consumption (caloric availability at the household level). During Project Year Three, IFPRI held a seminar to present the study methods and preliminary findings and to solicit feedback from FANTA and IFPRI staff.

Using data sets from Mexico, Egypt, Mozambique, India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines and using a variety of measures of association, the preliminary findings show a well-measured, positive, significant connection between dietary diversity and household per capita expenditures. In every sample, there is a positive, statistically significant association between dietary diversity and household per capita daily caloric availability from non-staples.

FANTA and IFPRI participants at the seminar recommended a greater emphasis on the use and interpretation of results, grouping food groups, and going beyond simple caloric food adequacy. As a result of the seminar and a subsequent meeting, it was decided to include additional analysis and refinements. The study will broaden the analyses undertaken on data sets from the six

countries and will include the analysis of data from four additional countries (Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Mali) in the final report. In addition to using a common caloric requirement for all countries, the final analyses will use country-specific caloric requirements and will be repeated using “number of food groups” in addition to “number of unique foods.” A draft report will be completed during Project Year Four.

By examining the validity of dietary diversity as a measure of access to food and of consumption, the study contributes to the development of reliable and feasible approaches to measure food security. Such approaches are useful to identify food security needs, to understand and assess the impact of interventions, and to inform program design.

3.5.1.b. Adaptation of the U.S. Household Food Security Scale approaches in developing country contexts

Humanitarian relief and development organizations increasingly need to measure household food security to monitor and evaluate the impact of programs and make planning and targeting decisions. To address this need, FANTA is working with subcontractors Cornell and Tufts Universities to adapt and validate the U.S. Department of Agriculture Household Food Security and Hunger Assessment tool for use in developing countries. The work tests the usefulness of the tool as an outcome indicator to evaluate change in the access component of food security in program evaluations. Multi-year field validation studies are being conducted in Burkina Faso (by Cornell University in collaboration with Africare) and in Bangladesh (by Tufts University in collaboration with World Vision). Taken together, these two field studies will contribute to the development of a generic protocol to guide similar research in other countries and will help determine (and possibly enable) applicability of this tool to assess food security in developing countries.

Burkina Faso Study: Begun in Project Year Three, the Burkina Faso study has resulted in two products: an ethnographic literature review and a tool to measure the access component of household food security (the Household Food Security Measurement Tool (HFSMT)). The literature review, *Cultural Perspectives for Understanding Food Security among the Mossi*, examines the cultural context of food security among the Mossi ethnic group in Burkina Faso and serves as important background information. The interview guide for the field validation of the HFSMT was developed and field-tested in Burkina Faso, which led to the report, *Development and Results of a Questionnaire-Based Tool to Measure the Food Security of Production Units in Zondoma for Africare’s Baseline Survey*. The guide covers information ranging from availability of land and its uses to food storage management mechanisms. FANTA reviewed both documents, and a final draft of the Interview Guide is expected to be completed in the first half of Project Year Four, after which the household survey will be conducted.

Bangladesh Study: Design and fieldwork for the Food Insecurity Measurement and Validation Study conducted by Tufts and World Vision in Bangladesh also began during Project Year Three. This work builds upon WVI’s earlier baseline survey work and provides a broader understanding of household food security issues in countries like Bangladesh. The data from this study are expected to help define the viability of the HFSMT. The fieldwork will be completed during Project Year Five.

3.5.2. Measuring infant and child feeding behaviors

3.5.2.a. Knowledge, Practice and Coverage Survey (KPC) Infant and Child Feeding Indicator

The *Knowledge, Practice and Coverage Survey* (KPC 2000+) is a tool widely used by PVOs implementing child survival and food security programs and serves as the basis for many baseline and final evaluation surveys. In addition to being used to examine results of MCHN activities, the KPC 2000+ is also adapted by PVOs to provide an understanding of local health and nutrition situations and to motivate action to address key problems. During Project Year Three, FANTA provided technical assistance to revise and improve portions of the KPC 2000+ related to infant and child feeding and nutrition. These improvements enable PVOs using the tool to more effectively measure critical feeding practices.

Age-Specific Feeding Recommendations: The most recent version of the KPC 2000+ includes a module focused on infant and child feeding. In order to obtain expert input on indicator criteria for the complementary feeding component, FANTA hosted a meeting early in Project Year Three with USAID, CSTS, CORE, ORC Macro/DHS, LINKAGES, MOST, BASICS, SARA, Johns Hopkins University, and IFPRI. The meeting resulted in a consensus on the age-specific recommendations for two of the components of a composite indicator for appropriate feeding: continued breastfeeding and the frequency of feeding semi-solid and solid foods.

Infant and Child Feeding Indicator: During Project Year Three, FANTA continued to collaborate with BHR/PVC contractor CSTS and child survival PVOs to develop consensus on the definition of an appropriate composite indicator for infant and child feeding and on methods for analyzing and presenting KPC 2000+ data. Since KPC's infant and child feeding module is similar to that included in the DHS questionnaire, the results of this activity will support optimal use of the infant and child feeding data generated by both the KPC and the DHS. Concurrently, the World Health Organization is leading a similar initiative regarding indicator development to assess international comparisons and to examine selected outcomes of complementary feeding. As a result of these developments, the focus on developing a composite indicator has shifted in scope during the year, and the activity will continue in Project Year Four.

Child Survival and Nutrition Assessment Workshop (Nutrition Works): In collaboration with CSTS, FAM, and CORE, FANTA facilitated a workshop for child survival and Title II programming staff called Nutrition Works: Measuring, Understanding, and Improving Nutritional Status. Part of the workshop focused on the KPC 2000+, its purpose, application, and associated issues. FANTA provided input about how the tool can be used to better understand and respond to nutritional problems in targeted communities. The links between behaviors identified through the KPC and nutritional status were also discussed, and a number of programming approaches to improve nutritional status were explored (i.e., Hearth, Positive Deviance, Atención Integral a la Niñez, care groups). FANTA's input enabled participating PVOs to broaden and improve the use of the KPC in their activities. (See Section 1.1.2.a for more information on the workshop.)

3.5.2.b. Measuring caring behaviors

FANTA's work with IFPRI during Project Year Two using DHS data from Latin America to measure childcare established a solid foundation for further work on modeling the importance of care and creating indices for care and feeding. The research in Latin America shows that child feeding information available in DHS data can be used to explore associations between child feeding practices and nutritional status. The findings demonstrate the potential of reducing stunting in the Latin America region through improvement of key child feeding practices. Use of DHS data constitutes an invaluable tool for both program and advocacy purposes because it allows one to quantify and model child feeding practices and to illustrate the strength of their association with child nutrition and health outcomes.

Based on the results of this earlier work, during Project Year Three, FANTA supported two additional IFPRI studies on childcare and one on a child-feeding index. By demonstrating the links between feeding practices and nutritional status and by testing methods for measurement of key feeding behaviors, this research provides information to support improved integration of childcare and feeding interventions into nutrition and child survival programs and to support improved measurement of outcomes.

Assessing Care: The role of care as a critical influence on child nutrition, health and development has received increasing attention in the past decade. This study, *Assessing Care: Progress Towards the Measurement of Selected Childcare and Feeding Practices, and Implications for Programs*, was part of USAID and FANTA's efforts to develop relevant reporting tools for use by USAID and its partners to describe and assess nutrition and food security interventions. In this review, experience with the measurement of selected childcare and feeding practices is summarized and implications for programs are discussed. The review focused on hygiene practices, feeding practices and caregiver-child interactions during feeding, and examined the use of mixed methods and both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Ghana Study: To further the analysis of care as an input to child nutrition, FANTA funded a study using data from Ghana. The Accra Urban Food and Nutrition Study provided an opportunity for FANTA to examine the relative contribution of various maternal and household resources to the provision of care. This study resulted in two papers: *A Multiple-Method Approach to Studying Childcare in an Urban Environment: The Case of Accra, Ghana* and *A Positive Deviance Approach to Studying Childcare in an Urban Environment: The Case of Accra, Ghana*. While this research used case studies focused on Accra, the methodologies developed and the lessons learned from the experience are highly relevant to current efforts aimed at incorporating childcare interventions into the design of existing nutrition and integrated child survival programs.

Five key findings resulted from this research, with evidence supporting: 1) the critical role of childcare practices as a key input into children's nutritional status, 2) the contribution of optimal feeding practices during the first six months of life to the prevention of growth failure among infants, 3) maternal education as the characteristic most strongly associated with good childcare practices, 4) the importance of investing in girls' education, and 5) triangulation as a very beneficial methodological approach.

Ethiopia Study: In collaboration with IFPRI and ORC Macro, FANTA began a study of infant/child feeding practices using data from Ethiopia's DHS 2000. Results of the data analysis will help describe current feeding behaviors, will be used to develop a model infant/child feeding practices index, and will help to further quantify the association between feeding practices and nutritional status. Based on study results, recommended infant/child feeding indicators will also be provided to USAID/Addis Ababa for use as the Mission's Integrated Strategic Plan indicators. Data analysis began during Project Year Three and will be completed during Project Year Four.

3.6. The use of food to strengthen household and community response to HIV/AIDS

The critical importance of nutrition and food security responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic has been increasingly recognized by USAID, its partners, affected communities and individuals, and other stakeholders. FANTA works to strengthen such responses through three main approaches: 1) promotion of improved nutritional care and support of those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS; 2) strengthening the use of food aid to address HIV/AIDS and the monitoring and evaluation of these interventions; and 3) input to the development of strategies and interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. During Project Year Three, FANTA's HIV/AIDS efforts continued to grow, and FANTA worked with USAID and its partners to strengthen tools, knowledge levels, interventions, and practices.

Nutritional Care and Support

In response to the expressed need of USAID, program managers, government health ministries, health workers, and caregivers, FANTA developed a guide for nutritional care and support of people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Titled *HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care and Support*, this document is designed to help program managers make recommendations on food management and nutritional issues for households of people living with HIV/AIDS. The guide focuses on dietary and care practices for adults during different stages of HIV and also provides nutritional suggestions for children and other members of HIV/AIDS-affected households. The guide also provides information on the use of donated and local food commodities to support HIV/AIDS-affected communities.

Having developed a draft last year, FANTA field-tested the guide in Malawi at the beginning of Project Year Three. During visits to Malawi, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, FANTA gathered information on local foods, dietary and care practices, traditional therapies, and applications of the guide to local contexts. This information was incorporated into the guide to ensure that recommendations are relevant and applicable to the context of HIV/AIDS-affected communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Following technical reviews of its content by a range of stakeholders, including USAID, PVOs, and external nutrition and HIV/AIDS experts, FANTA finalized the guide. It will be disseminated to USAID, its partners, and others working in relevant areas in Project Year Four. A French version of the guide was begun at the end of Project Year Three. Based on the expressed need and on initial reactions, the guide is expected to lead to improved nutritional care and support practices for people living with HIV/AIDS and to increased emphasis on nutritional aspects of care and support. Already several programs have integrated information from the guide into interventions, such as a PVO program in Uganda that developed a counseling curriculum based largely on the guide's content.

As a next step in the process of increasing and technically enhancing nutritional care and support activities, FANTA began work during Project Year Three to enable adaptation of the guide for development of national guidelines. With support from REDSO/ESA, FANTA worked in collaboration with one of REDSO/ESA's regional partners to plan a workshop on development of national guidelines for HIV/AIDS nutritional care and support. The workshop, to be held in November, 2001, will equip country teams to develop national guidelines and will yield a handbook for national guideline development. (See Section 2.2.2 for more information.)

Title II LIFE Programs

During Project Year Three, FANTA provided technical support to USAID Missions and PVOs to strengthen programs that use food aid interventions to address HIV/AIDS. In particular, FANTA assisted in the improvement of M&E systems for Title II LIFE programs in Malawi and Uganda. In addition to enhancing these programs, FANTA's technical assistance also yielded lessons and examples useful to other food-based HIV/AIDS programs. Food aid approaches to HIV/AIDS are relatively recent, and the results of FANTA's support include identification of promising practices that can be applied to other programs, such as appropriate indicators, baseline survey designs, and integration of nutritional care and support components. FANTA will draw on lessons from these programs to provide technical assistance to a third Title II LIFE program in Rwanda during the first quarter of Project Year Four.

- FANTA provided in-country technical assistance to CRS/Malawi in the refinement of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of its Title II LIFE program, particularly to measure the impact of the food safety net component. FANTA's support resulted in more effective indicators with more precise definitions, improved indicator measurement, and reductions in the number of reporting indicators to eliminate redundant and overly ambitious targets.
- FANTA provided in-country technical assistance to Uganda's Title II HIV/AIDS Consortium, led by ACDI/VOCA, in designing the M&E system for the Consortium's multi-sectoral Title II LIFE program. FANTA supported the design of the baseline survey, the refinement of indicators, and establishment of information systems based on the PVO partners' existing management information systems. Other food-assisted HIV/AIDS programs have requested information on the results of this technical assistance in order to strengthen their own programs.

Information Sharing

Through a variety of forums, FANTA provided guidance and information on nutrition and food security responses to HIV/AIDS to USAID/Washington, Missions, REDSO/ESA, PVOs, host governments, regional institutions, NGOs, AIDS service organizations, and other stakeholders. This has contributed to heightened awareness of promising approaches and practices, increased knowledge levels and skills, and greater cooperative efforts. Examples of FANTA's guidance and information sharing during Project Year Three are as follows:

- Through meetings with Missions in Uganda and Malawi and field visits with PVOs, AIDS service organizations, and other NGOs, FANTA provided information about the integration of nutritional care and support into programs and about the effective use of food aid and other food security components to address HIV/AIDS. FANTA has continued to provide guidance to these and other organizations through field visits and Washington-based assistance. This has resulted in greater technical proficiency in the application of nutrition and food aid interventions to address HIV/AIDS.
- Presented applications of nutritional care and support and food aid to HIV/AIDS at a Save the Children-USA workshop for 50 participants in Uganda on program responses to HIV/AIDS. These inputs helped to introduce Save the Children to options for nutrition and food security responses to HIV/AIDS.
- Supported the participation by two representatives from Kenyan and Ugandan NGOs at a U.S. conference organized by the AIDS Nutrition Services Alliance. This enabled the African NGOs to gain exposure to approaches and information used by U.S.-based groups addressing nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Based on her experience at the conference, the Ugandan participant conducted an assessment of existing materials on nutrition and HIV/AIDS upon her return, which is being used to develop national guidelines.
- Prepared a profile of FANTA's HIV/AIDS activities for inclusion in the USAID Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project Profiles, which is used to inform USAID partners, policy makers, and other stakeholders about USAID's HIV/AIDS approaches and interventions.
- Participated in the USAID Briefing Meeting on M&E for the Expanded Response. FANTA contributed to recommendations regarding the need for a cohesive HIV/AIDS mitigation strategy with specific objectives in order to be able to develop effective M&E systems.
- Shared information at the REDSO/ESA partners meeting about nutritional care and support and discussed options available to the Nutrition Coalitions in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania to address nutrition and HIV/AIDS. As a result, all three Coalitions plan to work on this issue during the upcoming year.
- Participated in the USAID HIV/AIDS Care and Support Working Group and contributed to integration of nutritional care and support into USAID strategies.

- Presented information about nutrition and food aid responses to HIV/AIDS and about FANTA's ongoing work in the area to representatives of government and non-governmental institutions from Latin America and the Caribbean visiting through the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Program.
- Shared information about FANTA's nutritional care and support guide and about uses of food aid to address HIV/AIDS with the Abbot Fund and Axios International, which are launching food-supported programs for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Tanzania and Burkina Faso.

3.7. Estimating changes in child mortality from changes in child malnutrition using secondary data

Enhancing child survival has long been a major health and development goal for USAID. This focus appears to have intensified in recent years, in part due to the current emphasis on performance-based management and evaluation strategies. Indicators of the nutritional status of populations are of interest in this regard for two reasons: 1) there is broad recognition of the powerful impact that malnutrition can have on child mortality as a result of its potentiating effect on infectious disease, with roughly half (56%) of all child deaths attributable to this effect; and 2) information on changes in population nutritional status may be more readily available and available at more frequent intervals than other demographic indicators. The availability of nutritional indicators makes it possible to evaluate the extent of nutritional improvement in the population and has stimulated interest in using such data to estimate indirectly the corresponding changes in child mortality in specific populations.

FANTA has been supporting research by Cornell University to develop and validate methods for estimating changes in child mortality from changes in child malnutrition. During Project Year Three, this study was completed and the results presented to USAID, PVOs, and projects in a report and in a presentation by the lead researcher. The study's conclusions offer guidance in two main areas: 1) in conceptualizing the dynamic relationship between declining malnutrition and declining child mortality, particularly in the severely malnourished regions and countries of Africa; and 2) in designing appropriate complementary strategies to increase child survival. Findings will also serve to guide FANTA technical assistance in food security strategy and policy advocacy.

3.8. Measuring the impact of nutrition programs

There is a growing consensus to revise the targeting strategies used for food-based MCHN programs in which the main objective is to promote child growth. The proposed shift is from targeting malnourished children under the age of five to targeting all children under the age of two in communities with high prevalence of malnutrition and food insecurity. An example of FANTA's successful advocacy for this shift can be seen in Honduras where, based on FANTA recommendations, CARE/Honduras redesigned the MCHN component of its Title II activities to focus on all children under two in the project area. This has further led the government of Honduras to introduce a similar shift in its child health and nutrition activities (see Section 2.4 for more information). FANTA is preparing a paper that presents the scientific and programmatic reasons why such a change in targeting is beneficial. This paper contributes to the

process of promoting better practices to improve nutritional impacts of MCHN programs. The paper will be issued as a Technical Note during Project Year Four.

FANTA had planned to issue a second Technical Note on the magnitude of impact that nutrition programs can anticipate in reducing child malnutrition. However, in Project Year Three, it was determined that a more practical approach would be to focus the paper on the influence that Title II programs have had in reducing child malnutrition. This fulfills a distinct need expressed by Title II PVOs and will contribute to a better understanding of how to set appropriate and reasonable targets in Title II programming. Progress on this paper will continue during Project Year Four.

Important results in a related area have been produced in a subcontract with Cornell on estimating changes in child mortality from changes in child malnutrition. (See Section 3.7 for more information.)

3.9. Training workshops

During Project Year Three, FANTA conducted training on a range of technical topics for PVOs, USAID, and other stakeholders. These training sessions led to enhanced capacities and adoption of improved practices in programming, policy, and strategy development. In selecting training opportunities, FANTA placed preference on those training programs likely to benefit a wider group of stakeholders. The major training programs FANTA conducted during the year are described below. In addition to these, FANTA also provided informal training during field visits, ISA Manager meetings, and other fora throughout the year.

Food Aid Managers Course: At the annual USAID Food Aid Managers Course, FANTA trained 45 USAID and PVO managers in reporting and information systems for emergency and development programs. FANTA's presentations led to an exchange of information on program monitoring and evaluation and resulted in a better understanding by USAID and PVO managers of reporting requirements and how to fulfill them.

Data Analysis: In coordination with the PVO consortium FAM, FANTA provided technical support to a five-day Data Analysis Training Workshop held in Kenya for 27 PVO representatives working with programs in eight countries in Africa. The workshop equipped participants with enhanced skills and knowledge in data analysis, as indicated by pre-workshop and post-workshop tests and exercises. In the months following the workshop, feedback from the participants indicated that they collected and analyzed data for program surveys, a process that was strengthened by the tools and skills acquired at the workshop.

Monitoring and Evaluation (Africare): FANTA conducted two training workshops in Mali for 30 participants to enhance Africare's reporting and M&E capacity. The first, a five-day workshop for seven of Africare's nine Title II programs, focused on improving the quality of program reporting and resulted in production of a template and guide for annual results reports. The second, a four-day workshop for Africare's five West Africa programs, focused on improving M&E practices and resulted in enhanced program capacity, analyses of methodologies, and a documentation of key lessons learned. Participant feedback suggests that

the workshop met an important need. An illustrative participant comment in the workshop evaluation was that “the workshop was very professional and relevant to the needs of my country program. Bravo to FFP and FANTA.” In addition to enhancing Africare’s capacity, the workshop also resulted in lessons and products that FANTA has used to strengthen other PVOs’ reporting and M&E systems.

Monitoring and Evaluation (ADRA): At the request of FFP and ADRA, FANTA conducted a five-day training workshop for M&E Officers and other staff of all eight of ADRA’s Title II programs, a total of 13 participants. The workshop focused on enhancing program staff’s capacity to design effective M&E plans and targets, with particular emphasis on the performance reporting required by FFP. As a result of the workshop, ADRA significantly improved the M&E plans for its programs that begin new cycles in FY 2002 and addressed the major deficiencies in the earlier plans. The package of tools and materials that FANTA developed for this workshop is a resource that can help other PVOs to improve the design of M&E systems. A revised package will be made available to the wider PVO community in Project Year Four.

Community-Based Nutrition: In response to requests from PVOs in Ethiopia, FANTA conducted a three-day training workshop in Ethiopia on Community-Based Nutrition Programs for 12 representatives from Title II PVOs and USAID. The training covered various community nutrition approaches such as Positive Deviance and the Hearth model and led to experience sharing among PVOs and identification of key lessons learned. As a result of the workshop, participants decided to convene a group focused on community nutrition issues that meets monthly to share information and promote better practices. In a correspondence to USAID/Washington, USAID/Addis Ababa stated, “This was a very successful exercise with which we are very pleased.”

Nutrition Advocacy (Ethiopia): Continuing a process that began in Project Year Two, FANTA conducted a five-day workshop in Ethiopia for 18 representatives of government agencies, multilateral organizations and other stakeholders on the need for strengthened nutrition policy and strategies. The workshop used the PROFILES tool to provide information on the costs and consequences of poor nutrition and to suggest policy gaps to be addressed. The facts, analysis, and recommendations that emerged from these workshops have contributed to increased emphasis on nutrition in USAID programming, government policies, strategic planning, and institutional allocations. (See Section 1.3.1 for more information.)

Nutrition Advocacy (Haiti): The policy dialogue using PROFILES proposed to occur in Haiti during this year was not held because of shifting needs for the Mission and political changes in Haiti. It was concluded that the Mission will wait for the new Health Cabinet to be fully in control before engaging the government in a policy dialogue. The option of undertaking a policy exercise will be examined again in Project Year Four.

West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting: FANTA coordinated the one-day technical update session on women’s and adolescent nutrition at the Sixth Annual West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting in Ghana. FANTA prepared and disseminated technical briefs and other information to 70 participants from government health ministries, research institutes, and other key stakeholders. While FANTA staff were unable to attend due to security concerns in

September, FANTA supported resource persons to give technical presentations. The meeting, which was partly funded by other USAID projects and the World Bank, resulted in agreement on an extensive series of priority actions such as adoption of national policies, establishment of an information databank, and integration of women's nutrition components into health services. (See Section 2.1.1 for more information.)

Child Feeding: In Guatemala, FANTA conducted a two-day workshop for 20 Title II PVO staff on better practices in health and nutrition programs, with particular emphasis on child feeding practices. FANTA also provided guidance on M&E indicators and reporting requirements. FANTA's input began a process of more thorough incorporation of the Mission's reporting requirements into PVOs' M&E systems.

Food Security and HIV/AIDS: At a workshop in Uganda organized by Save the Children to plan program responses to HIV/AIDS, FANTA conducted sessions for 50 participants on food aid interventions and on nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. These inputs helped to introduce Save the Children to options for nutrition and food security responses to HIV/AIDS.

Nutrition Tools: In collaboration with the Child Survival Technical Support Project (CSTS), FAM, and CORE, FANTA facilitated a workshop for 55 child survival and Title II programming staff to share information and establish collaborations for improved nutrition programming. Technical presentations by FANTA staff and group working sessions covered topics of anthropometry, community nutrition tools, and the KPC 2000 survey tool. (See Section 1.1.2.a for more information.)

At the workshop FANTA gave a technical presentation on anthropometry and distributed copies of FANTA's *Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide* (see Section 3.2.1). Anthropometry plays a critical role in assessments and M&E practices for most nutrition programs, yet PVOs often face technical and logistical challenges to its accurate application. FANTA's presentation and guide provided information to assist programs in improving anthropometry practices.

Adult Under-Nutrition: At the Annual ACC/SCN Conference in Kenya, FANTA facilitated a session for 70 participants on assessment and treatment of adult under-nutrition. (See Section 1.2.1.a for further details.)

Graduate School Lectures: FANTA conducted a seminar on food security issues for 55 public health and nutrition graduate students at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. FANTA also gave a lecture on dietary data collection to 15 graduate students at Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

Communication Technologies for MCHN: FANTA contributed to the planning of a USAID conference for approximately 200 people on "New Technologies for Disaster & Development Communications," facilitated the MCHN workshop for the conference, and compiled case studies.

HIV/AIDS Nutritional Care and Support: In collaboration with a regional East African partner, FANTA planned a workshop to equip country teams with tools and skills for the development of national guidelines on HIV/AIDS nutritional care and support. The workshop will take place in Uganda in November 2001.

3.10. Information sharing and communications

During Project Year Three, FANTA performed a wide range of information sharing and communications activities. The list of activities below is not comprehensive but provides representative examples of FANTA's information sharing and communications work.

Communication Outreach

- FANTA contributed articles to each of the three issues of Food Aid Management's *Food Forum* published during the year. Articles covered subjects such as Credit with Education, Food for Education, the Emergency Ration Bar, and FANTA's work with partners on the development of child feeding indicators. Through the *Food Forum*, these articles were disseminated to Title II PVOs and other food aid stakeholders to provide information about the progress and results of FANTA's work.
- FANTA prepared articles that were published in *AED Program Highlights* about the Data Analysis Workshop, the Assessment of Food Aid for USAID, the Emergency Ration Bar, and the Food for Education Indicator Guide.
- As follow-up to the West Africa monitoring and evaluation workshop held last year, a series of Frequently Asked Questions was prepared with responses. This document is based on questions and feedback from workshop participants and provides information about common issues and problems related to program monitoring and evaluation. The document was translated into French, shared with workshop participants, and is available to a wider audience on FANTA's website.

Database Expansion

The FANTA database is an internal source of information for staff. The categories of information organized here in a customized Access database include: FANTA documents, Contacts, Organizations, Information and TA Requests and Reference Materials. This database is maintained and updated on a weekly basis and serves the general purpose of organizing information relating to FANTA products and partners, including TAG members, PVOs, USAID Missions and other significant players in food security and nutrition. During Project Year Three, a considerable number of new entries were made, particularly to document information flows to and from FANTA in the form of information requests and responses.

Information Packets

- One hundred information notebooks were distributed at the West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting in Accra, Ghana (50 English/50 French). Various nutrition-related materials were included from FANTA as well as from LINKAGES and SARA.

- Technical update booklets consisting of six articles in French and English on the theme of women's and adolescent nutrition were distributed at the West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting in Ghana.
- Forty binders of materials on data analysis and related topics were prepared and distributed at the Data Analysis Workshop.

Meetings/Planning Sessions

- Two FANTA TAG meetings were convened during the year for PVO TAG members (and USAID observers). At the first meeting, Freedom from Hunger provided an overview of the work it has undertaken for FANTA on applying Credit with Education in Title II programs. At the second meeting, FANTA presented its ongoing work on women's nutrition. TAG members provided feedback and suggestions about these issues.
- FANTA met with potential partners on the GHAI networking project, including the Center for African Family Studies and the Commonwealth Regional Health Secretariat. In addition, staff met with other AED nutrition projects (LINKAGES and SARA) about leveraging resources for networking activities.
- Three members of FANTA met with representatives of the International Health Organization, a U.S.-based NGO working in Bihar, India, to discuss the organization's health, sanitation, and income generation activities. FANTA also provided information about the project's role and activities.

Periodicals

- FANTA supported the development of a new regional journal, *African Journal of Food and Nutritional Sciences*. Published out of Nairobi in both print and web versions, the journal serves as a forum to share information about food and nutrition issues affecting Africa. The journal taps both social science and biochemical research and targets the research community, local and international NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and public institutions that address food and nutrition issues in Africa. Two issues of the journal were produced during Project Year Three, and a third will be printed in November, 2001.
- *Building Household Food-Security Measurement Tools from the Ground Up* (developed by Cornell as the first deliverable under FANTA's Household Food Security Measurement Tool field validation activity), was published in the *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, Volume 22, Number 1, March 2001.

Presentations

FANTA staff made over 25 presentations at a variety of forums during Project Year Three. Topics included HIV/AIDS Nutritional Care and Support, Food Security in Emergencies, Food for Education, Credit with Education, Women's Nutrition and the Lifecycle Approach, Nutrition

and Agriculture Linkages, ISA Evaluation Results, Anthropometric Measurement, and Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building. Audiences included USAID, PVOs, CAs, researchers, host government representatives, university students, and stakeholders in the field.

Responses to Technical Assistance Requests

During Project Year Three FANTA provided technical assistance in response to over 50 requests from PVOs and USAID on subjects including monitoring and evaluation, nutritional issues, rations, and program design.

Website Updates

The FANTA website is the main portal for all project information and thus is continually being updated and expanded. It underwent significant revisions during Project Year Three to reorganize, include new features and make publications even more accessible to web visitors. New information, such as the Women's Nutrition page, was added and a search function included for the entire site. The Focus Areas and What's New sections were also expanded. Information produced with FANTA support, such as the WHO Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) is now available on the website as are various training materials, Powerpoint presentations and technical background papers produced by FANTA.

Responses to Information Requests

The documents and materials listed on the following page in Table 4 were distributed during Project Year Three in response to information requests.

Table 4. Information Requests

Requests For	Project Year Produced	Number of Requests
General Outreach		
FANTA Brochure	PY2	350
Website Referrals	na	11
Indicator Guides		
Agricultural Productivity Indicators Measurement Guide	PY1	177
Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide	PY3	277
Food For Education Indicator Guide	PY4	8
Food Security Indicators and Framework for Use in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Food Aid Programs	PY1	168
Infant and Child Feeding Indicators Measurement Guide – English	PY1	237
Infant and Child Feeding Indicators Measurement Guide – Spanish	not produced	10
Measuring Household Food Consumption: A Technical Guide	PY2	260
Sampling Guide – English	PY1	254
Sampling Guide – French	PY3	31
Sampling Guide – Spanish	PY4	10
Water and Sanitation Indicators Measurement Guide	PY1	173
Other Document References		
IMPACT publications	na	3
KPC Module	na	1
Technical Reference Materials 2000	na	3
Promising Practices Guides		
The Case for Credit with Education: A Promising Title II Microfinance Strategy	PY3	206
Reports		
Building Household Food Security Measurement Tools From the Ground Up	PY2	105
Child Feeding Index	draft	7
Potential Uses of Food Aid to Support HIV/AIDS Mitigation Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa	PY2	184
Technical Briefs		
Improving the Nutrition Impacts of Agriculture Interventions: Strategy & Policy Brief	PY2	132
Technical Guides		
HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care and Support - English	PY4	80
HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care and Support - French	PY4	51
Improving the Use of Food Rations in Title II Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programs Guide – English	PY2	108
Improving the Use of Food Rations in Title II Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programs Guide – Spanish	PY1	10

Requests For	Project Year Produced	Number of Requests
Workshop Materials		
ADRA M&E workshop	PY3	7
Community-Based Nutrition (Ethiopia) materials	PY3	24
Data Analysis workshop (Kenya) binder	PY3	47
Nutrition Focal Points conference (Ghana) Technical Update packet (English & French)	PY3	101
West Africa M&E workshop (Mali) paper	PY2	5